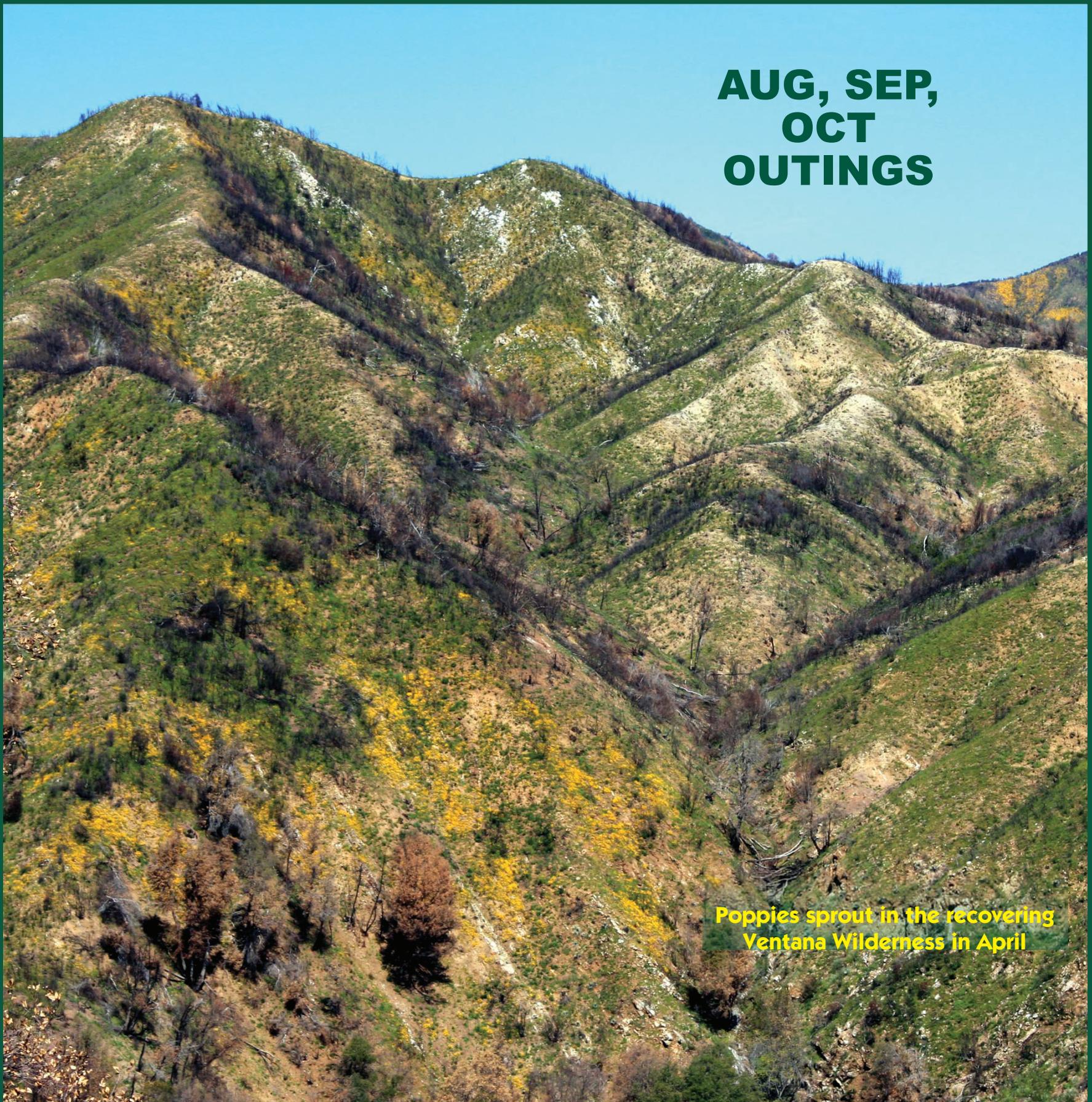


The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

**AUG, SEP,
OCT
OUTINGS**



**Poppies sprout in the recovering
Ventana Wilderness in April**

Don Monkerud

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

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

SUBMISSIONS FORMAT

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

PHOTOS

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

WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

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

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2009

Ventana Publication Schedule

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#5	Sep. 21	Oct. 7
#6	Nov. 30	Dec. 16

Articles received after deadline
may not be published.



CHAPTER CHAIR

New opportunities to interact with other members

Chapter members are contacting us with requests to meet, socialize, share information, and organize with other Club members. There is a strong interest among Executive Committee members to provide more structure which encourages activities that combine social networking with conservation work. But Chapter leadership has been overwhelmed with several key conservation issues for the last few years. Coastal protection, General Plan hearings and policies, pesticide use, and our dwindling water supply have consumed so much of our time we may have overlooked the importance of meeting and sharing our views and objectives with you.

Now we are working on a program to plan more get-togethers and opportunities for members to meet and learn more about the Club as well as each other. Executive Committee members have discussed different types of activities such as film series, Monterey potlucks with slides and DVD presentations, lectures about travel and research, as well as a speaker program featuring environmentalists, scientists, writers, and artists. We also want to encourage non-members who are interested in our work to learn about us in a welcoming environment. Please go to page 3 to learn how you can help plan exciting activities and suggest ways to make them successful.

Sierra Club National has also taken steps in this direction. Building on the popular-

Chapter and Group seeking Executive Committee Candidates

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

To learn more, check out the Chapter website for election rules and timetable: www.ventana.sierraclub.org. To volunteer to run or recommend someone you know call Mary Gale, 626-3565 (Monterey) or Aldo Giacchino, 460-1538 (Santa Cruz). Santa Cruz members are eligible to serve both in Monterey at the Chapter level or in Santa Cruz at the Group level. Monterey members are eligible to serve at the Chapter level.

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

ity of social networking tools such as Facebook, the Club has launched three new online communities. Anyone can browse these sites for information and updates. If you wish to use the information for projects or campaigns, you can register and participate in discussions and get more deeply involved.

- Climate Crossroads at <http://climatecrossroads.sierraclub.org> puts members in touch with like-minded folks who are working on climate change and related conservation issues.

- Sierra Student Coalition at <http://ssc.sierraclub.org> targets events and activities for college students all over the country.

- Sierra Club Trails at: <http://trails.sierraclub.org> has trail descriptions and opportunities to join discussions for hiking and camping nationwide.

Please consider participating in some of these activities to interact with other members either in person or online and be part of an expanding network to continue to protect our natural resources and make new friends.

—Rita Dalessio



Walking my baby back home

When I was about five years old there was a popular song I remember hearing on the radio. The tune was catchy, and I quickly learned the lyrics. It went like this: "Gee but it's great / after being out late / walking my baby back home. / Arm and arm / over meadow and farm / walking my baby back home."

I pictured a man pushing a baby carriage and walking home at night. I was too young to realize "my baby" was the man's girlfriend.

The song is embedded in my brain, and it came to mind the other day as I was walking downtown. I started to think about the lyrics. They described a late night, after perhaps a movie or party, when the man and his date were walking home. Not driving, walking. They were walking a long way in a somewhat rural setting, "over meadow and farm."

Can you imagine someone doing that today? How far did they walk one way? A couple of miles? Farms and meadows were a lot closer to town in the 1940s than they are today. I grew up in such a town, and

there were indeed farms within the city limits and more farms and meadows within two miles of downtown.

Today, most of us think we have to drive everywhere. That's what we're used to. That's what we've done all our lives. But the song is testimony that there is another way. A way that some of us could take.

Have you ever considered going to an event, friend's house, or movie that is up to two miles from your house on foot? It would take you about half an hour if you walked at four miles an hour.

Not only would you have some dedicated time to talk about the event (both before and after) with your companion, you would be getting some great exercise to boot. Not to mention taking a big bite out of your carbon footprint.

For some of us, this is not possible. We either can't walk that far or there is no safe place to walk due to lack of sidewalks, road shoulders, or safe crossings. But for many of us, it is possible.

By looking at how things were done before we used the car for most of our trips, we can gain some insights on the possibilities. You might just find out it's fun to walk your baby back home.

—Debbie Bulger

How much would you save by ditching your gas guzzler?



The Sierra Club has launched a new online calculator to help consumers better understand the environmental and economic benefits of making the right vehicle purchasing decisions under the federal government's new Car Allowance Rebate System (also known as "cash for clunkers"). The Club also named Fuel Economy All-Stars in each class of vehicles in order to highlight the best choices for consumers. The Cash for Clunkers online guide can be found at www.sierraclub.org/clunkers.

The cash for clunkers calculator included in the online guide helps consumers compare the fuel savings and emissions reductions benefits of various new models. Consumers simply input the fuel economy of their current vehicle, the fuel economy of the new model, and the number of miles they drive each year. The calculator then provides annual savings on gas (in both dollars and gallons) and the annual reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

Marina commits to sustainability



Steve Zmak

by Denyse Frischmuth

Mayor Bruce Delgado, in a special public signing ceremony held Monday, July 13, at City Hall, signed the Urban Environmental Accords and the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, adopted by the Marina City Council on a 4 to 1 vote.

Although the city has already implemented several sustainability measures, signing on to these agreements officially and publicly proclaims Marina's willingness to be an active and sustained participant in the process leading to decreased global warming pollution, reduced dependence on imported fossil fuels, increased savings of tax dollars, and improved economic opportunities.

Mayor Delgado recognizes that the road ahead will be long and arduous, but he is confident that, by

working together, the city and the residents will create a community that enjoys greater and greater quality of life. All interested citizens are invited to help by participating in Go Greener Marina, a committee recently established by the city, and Citizens for a Sustainable Marina, a newly formed grassroots organization dedicated to helping the community meet the challenges posed by climate change and Peak Oil.

By adopting these agreements, Marina has joined a growing number of local signatory cities: Pacific Grove, Monterey, Salinas, Capitola, and Santa Cruz.



Marina Mayor Bruce Delgado signs the Urban Environmental Accords and the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement making Marina the fourth Monterey County city to become a Sierra Club Cool City.

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Let's plan some get-togethers for Monterey County members

by Nicole Charles

Potluck, anyone? Let's get together and enjoy some good talk, maybe a slide show, possibly a speaker, and find out what the chapter is doing about the issues that concern our members in Monterey County.

My name is Nicole Charles and I currently serve on the Executive Committee of the Ventana Chapter. I came on board this year after interning at the Club headquarters in San Francisco, and while finishing my degree in Human Communications and Pre-Law at Cal State Monterey Bay.

Recently I have noticed that some chapter members, as well as non-members throughout Monterey County, do not realize how many local issues our chapter activists work on. Some seem to have the impression that the Sierra Club is one of those large, national organizations that deals mainly with political policy. Especially since the closure of the Club bookstore in Carmel a few years ago, and the demise of our former potluck program, many members have missed the chance to gather with others and participate in chapter activities.

I would like to connect local members with each other by hosting events or gatherings, ranging from members sharing slideshows and pictures from various travels to potlucks with special guest speakers. I hope to hear from people who would be interested in forming a Hospitality Committee, helping to brainstorm ideas, and making Sierra Club gatherings happen. Please contact me if you're interested, know of someone who may be, or have any questions at all. I look forward to hearing from you! Nicole Charles, 925-381-1982; email: Coley1986@sbcglobal.net.

Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p.15 or email **address.changes@sierraclub.org**
 The post office charges us 70¢ each if they handle the address change.
 Please help the Club by handling address changes in a timely fashion.

Thanks!

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I won an energy audit

by Cara Lamb

When you get an email saying you've won a prize, it's hard to take it seriously. My initial reaction was skepticism. But the specific prize, an energy audit of my home, sounded like something I might actually want. Also, the email didn't demand my social security number, bank account, or \$5000 earnest money, only that I set a date.

Even so, I didn't take it too seriously. I figured someone would come and spend an hour or two scolding us about the hot tub or trying to sell us new appliances and solar panels. It was only when I learned that the audit would take 8 hours that I started to believe it was real.

Eight hours? In this little house? The house is one story, no basement or crawl space, under 1000 square feet, not counting the attached garage, which we actually treat as a garage. It's a pretty average house. We have tried to make it more energy efficient by using some compact fluorescents and adding double-paned windows, but we were neither thorough nor consistent.

After checking out The Sustainable Home Solutions website, sustainablehome solutions.com, I found out a little more of what to expect. Ron, the auditor, had specialized equipment, including an Envelope Leakage Fan, a Duct Leakage Fan, and a Gas Analyzer. The day came. At nine a.m., not one, but two men arrived at our door. Ron had brought along an assistant, Tyler.

Right away, we looked at the furnace, water heater, and bathroom ceiling fans. Ron shook his head over the ceiling fans. They're old and loud. Ron said that they didn't have the necessary capacity to exchange air and that, since they're so loud, we probably don't

run them long enough. We wrote down a new type of fan that might be better. This is an improvement we can probably afford.

He pronounced the water heater to be a good one. As for the furnace, he only established that the filter was in place and clean. Further tests would come later.

Ron then went out to look at the perimeter of the house while Tyler began setting up the Envelope Leakage Fan. This turned out to be a bright red panel to seal the front door except for a space for a giant exhaust fan. With all the other doors and windows in the house closed, and the fireplace opening sealed with plastic, the fan would push air out the front door. If our house were airtight, this would create an intense loss of pressure inside the house.

You won't be surprised to learn that our house leaked. According to the computer running the fan, our house has a leakage rate of 2143 cubic feet per minute. This figure didn't mean a lot to me, so Ron explained that the house had leakage equal to one 10x40 inch hole in the wall or ceiling.

He used something called a smoke pencil to show us specific leaks. Held to an electric outlet, or one of our many skylights, it showed the intensity of the draft.

Our refrigerator had the best energy star rating we could find when we bought it—but that was back in 1992. Ron said get rid of it. But although refrigerators now are more efficient, they've also gotten larger and larger. So in actual wattage used, our old refrigerator still does better. I interrupted to point out that the refrigerator's power usage could be improved by simply cleaning behind it. Ron agreed, but we still haven't done it. But after Ron and Tyler left, my husband made a fresh search on the internet and found a new refrigerator, essentially the size of the one we have now, that could save us 20% of the electricity we now use for refrigeration.

Also, the kitchen has ten recessed lights in the ceiling, and only one is fluorescent. Four are on a dimmer. As for the rest, we said we couldn't get bright enough fluorescents to see what we need to see. The end

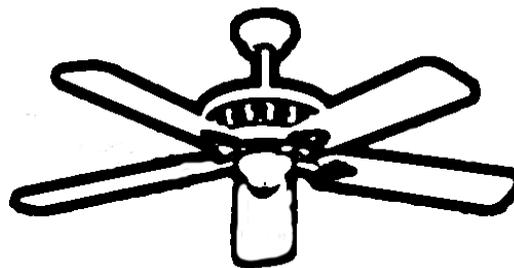
of this discussion was the decision to put ordinary (but bright) fluorescents into the recessed cans, instead of trying to find spotlights with enough wattage.

The lights had another problem. The ceiling cans aren't insulated, and therefore leak warm air.

In the afternoon, Ron and Tyler ascended into the attic. After some time up there, they reported, among other problems:

- A fireplace chase completely uninsulated.
- Patchy insulation elsewhere, especially over the light cans.

Then it was time to test the furnace ducts. Ron warned us in advance that in a house as old as ours, 30% leakage was not



uncommon, and it could be even worse. However, this test went well. He discovered only 6% leakage, although he said that the register boots—the part where the registers penetrate the ceilings—needed insulation.

But the furnace failed a few other tests. It's rusty. It burns with a yellow flame. Also, Ron told us that it's the wrong furnace for the house, overlarge, inefficient, and drawing its combustion air from the wrong places.

The tests took two men six hours. A week later, Ron delivered an 11-page report, listing all the problems found, and suggesting solutions. Some of the "low hanging fruit"

is stuff we already do or have done. Some of the changes are things we already hoped to do as soon as we could afford it, like replacing our rotting French doors with something more weather-tight. But we also learned about problems we didn't know about.

Here is a summary of some of the findings:

- The building envelope proved to be quite leaky.
- The door to the garage from the house has no weather stripping.
- All exterior doors are poorly sealed.
- The furnace sits on a platform that acts as the return air plenum, which is not sealed.
- The furnace air filter was easily accessible and clean at the time of inspection.
- Hot water piping was not insulated.
- Attic insulation is poorly installed and below desired levels.
- Attic ductwork is inadequately insulated. Register boots were not insulated.
- Ceiling light cans are not air tight and not rated for insulation contact, yet are in contact with insulation.
- The fireplace chase is not insulated and is open to the attic space.
- There are four existing exhaust fans, all very noisy and inadequate for their purpose.

We can't afford to follow every recommendation. The total could come to as much as \$50,000. But precisely because we can't afford to do everything, the audit was worth hundreds of dollars to us. With this list in hand, we are much clearer on what needs to be done, and we can make much more intelligent decisions on how to spend the money we have.

San Vicente Creek still listed for sediment impairment

In a stealth move, Redwood Empire Sawmills submitted an eleventh-hour request to the Central Coast Regional Water Board to remove Davenport's San Vicente Creek from the list of impaired waterways which is required by the Federal Clean Water Act of 1972. San Vicente Creek was listed as impaired for sediment in 2006 after Sierra Club members submitted data and testified showing excessive sediment levels during winter months. Davenport residents, who get their drinking water from the creek, have been forced to boil water during the winter when rainfall runoff carries sediment from logging roads and muddies the waters of the creek.

Even though the submission date for delisting requests for this round closed in February 2007, Redwood Empire submitted

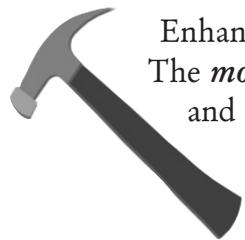
their request just 10 days before the July 10 hearing in Watsonville. Apparently staff felt obliged to process the request and recommended the delisting based on 1400 data points which included many months of no rainfall, giving a false impression of water quality in the watershed.

The public was only informed of the recommendation to delist the creek on the morning of the hearing. No data was available for public review, nor was the staff report. Several members of the public, including Sierra Club, objected to the total breach of public process.

Fortunately, three of the five board members present voted against the move, recognizing that the public 45-day required review period had been violated.

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Grizzly Flat back on the chopping block

by Betsy Herbert, Ph.D.

The City of Watsonville has submitted a second logging plan for Grizzly Flat, a 200-acre forested property at the source of Watsonville's highest quality drinking water. A sizable wetland on that property serves as a natural filtration system for Corralitos Creek, which flows directly through Grizzly Flat, upstream of the City's water treatment plant. Steelhead and red-legged frogs inhabit the area.

The City's rationale is that they need the money. The logging plan is now being reviewed by CalFire. Despite the City's attempt to keep this logging plan low profile, it is again drawing criticism.

Many *Ventana* readers will recall the city of Watsonville's controversial logging of Grizzly Flat in the mid-1990s, which drew a flurry of media attention. Citizens who wanted to protect old redwood trees and drinking water were pitted against City officials, who saw Grizzly Flat as a cash cow for their dwindling general fund.

Despite a prolonged legal battle, the City eventually had its way and logged Grizzly Flat in 1996.

In 1994, the Sierra Club, Watsonville Wetlands Watch, and Citizens for Responsible Forest Management all attempted to dissuade the City of Watsonville from logging the watershed. Yet, the city was determined to log Grizzly Flat. City officials steadfastly insisted that the logging would not harm water quality, despite the fact that Watsonville Water Department staff had opposed, in writing, other logging plans on private land upstream of Grizzly Flat, because of impacts to water quality.

Without ever having a public discussion about how to manage this public treasure, the city water department hired a forester to prepare a timber harvest plan, which it submitted to California Department of Forestry (CDF) in 1994 for review.

The city's 1994 Timber Harvest Plan described Grizzly Flat as "late successional," a term for a forest with many big, old redwoods providing good habitat value for wildlife species. State logging regulations require that a forester conduct a study of "late successional" forests when they are proposed for cut, to assess the impacts on

habitat. However, the City requested an exception to this rule on the grounds that the Grizzly Flat forest would still meet the definition "late successional" forest after it was cut, so that the study would not be necessary. CDF agreed with this rationale, and granted the City the exception.

As part of their unsuccessful lawsuit to stop the logging, Citizens for Responsible Forest Management challenged the state's decision to grant the City the exception to this rule.

Now, fast-forward to the present (2008) logging plan. It states that there are no "late successional forest" stands proposed for cut. Instead, it describes the entire area proposed for cut as "young-growth forest."

The 2008 logging plan further states, "Because the forest on the project area is managed using light-touch selection silviculture, conditions on the project area have not changed since the last timber harvest in the mid-1990s . . . except that tree overstory canopy cover has increased slightly."

The question remaining is, "What happened to the late successional forest?" Is it still there, but simply not identified by the 2008 logging plan? Or, was it obliterated by the 1994 logging?

If there are indeed late successional forest stands remaining on Grizzly Flat, they need to be identified and described in the 2008 logging plan, as required by the rules. If there are no late successional forest stands remaining, then apparently, the City of Watsonville over-cut the property in 1996, and is in violation of the rules.

Some things have changed since Grizzly Flat was logged in 1996: The 2008 Summit Fire raged through the heavily logged Corralitos Creek watershed, including parts of Grizzly Flat; Corralitos Creek is part of a larger watershed that is now listed as impaired for sediment, under the Clean Water Act; large redwood trees are now acknowledged as invaluable stores of carbon; CDF is now known as CalFire.

Other things have not changed: The City continues to view Grizzly Flat as a cash cow; the city's general fund is still strapped; and the City fails to recognize that the long-term value of the standing trees far exceeds the cash value of the timber.

How to help

If you live in the City of Watsonville, contact your City Council members and oppose the proposed logging. Urge them to explore alternatives that will save the trees and protect water quality. Standing trees are critical to protect clean drinking water for the City of Watsonville.

If you live anywhere else in Santa Cruz County, contact your County Supervisor and request that the county appeal the Grizzly Flat Timber Plan (NTMP 1-08 NTMP-010-SCR) as soon as it is approved by Calfire.

A former director of citizens for responsible forest management, Dr. Herbert led the initial effort to save Grizzly Flat in the 1990s. She is employed by a public water district, and her area of expertise is forest management by public water utilities.

Timber harvest, clear cutting in particular, removes more carbon from the forest than any other disturbance (including fire). The result is that harvesting forests generally reduces carbon stores and results in a net release of carbon to the atmosphere.

— MARK E. HARMON
RICHARDSON CHAIR AND
PROFESSOR OF FOREST SCIENCE AT
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Sierra Club Events

Friday, August 14

Potluck & Slides: Africa

This presentation is from Nancy's March 2009 safari in Tanzania with all of the usual African safari animals plus lots of birds and lots of telephoto close-ups. 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. Donations of \$1 or more for projector maintenance would be appreciated. For directions call Nancy, 423-5509.

Friday - Sunday, August 14 - 16

Lodge Celebration

Clair Tappaan Lodge will be 75 years old and Hutchison Lodge will be 85! Join other Club members for a Gala Anniversary Celebration featuring hikes, campfires, old-timers' stories, music, and more. \$195 for adults and \$75 for children includes 7 meals, lodging, and lots of fun. For more info and to register email ctl@sierraclub.org, or call 1-800-679-6775.



Don Nielsen

Guilin, China is famous for its picturesque mountains.

Sunday - Monday, August 23 - 24

Lobby Day

Join Sierra Club members from all over California in Sacramento to lobby legislators for renewable energy, water conservation, improved air quality, and park protection. Training on Sunday. Monday work the halls of the Capitol. Contact Annie Pham, lobbyday@sierraclubcalifornia.org or 916-557-1100 x 107.

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. Donations of \$1 or more for projector maintenance would be appreciated. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Fundraising event for Sierra Club political programs in California. Cost is \$950 which includes bunk and all meals. For more info contact Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye Street, El Monte, CA 91732, jholtzhl@aol.com.

Friday, September 11

Potluck & Slides: China

This presentation is from Don Nielsen's 2007 China trip that he took with his slide (not digital) camera. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m.

Friday - Monday, September 11 - 14

Channel Islands trips

Explore the Channel Islands with a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes and give talks.

Saturday, September 26

National Awards Banquet

Limited seating is available for the Club's National Awards Banquet to be held at the Cathedral Hill Hotel in San Francisco. 20 Awards will be presented. Meet activists from all

Non-Sierra Club Events of Interest

The following activities are not sponsored or administered by the Sierra Club. The Club makes no representations or warranties about the safety, supervision, or management of such activities. They are published only as a reader service.

Saturday, September 19

Coastal Cleanup Day

Last year, 70,000 people removed 1,600,000 pounds of garbage and recyclables from California beaches and waterways. For more info contact Emily Glanville, 462-5660 x 5 in Santa Cruz County or Jill Poudrette, 649-2980 in Monterey County.

www.compostsantacruzcounty.org. Sponsored by S.C. Co. Board of Supervisors; produced by County Public Works Recycling and Solid Waste Services.

Sunday, September 20, 1-3 p.m., Quail Hollow Ranch County Park, 800 Quail Hollow Road, Felton.

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.cruzcnps.org.

Contact for dates.

Monterey CNPS

Habitat restoration

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

Karin Grobe



Bonnie McKinney describes how worms reproduce to an appreciative class at Wilder Ranch. When she mentioned that worms have five hearts, one little boy remarked, "Wow, worms must be really loving!"

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 or register online at

Watsonville 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.

Lawsuit seeks reduction in diversions from Carmel River

Steelhead teetering on extinction

Sierra Club and the Carmel River Steelhead Association (CRSA) have filed a lawsuit in federal court under the citizen enforcement provision of the Environmental Species Act (ESA). The lawsuit is seeking an immediate 35% reduction in diversions of water from the Carmel River in Monterey County by California-American Water Company. CalAm, a privately owned California corporation, produces water by diversions from the Carmel River (accounting for 85% of the diversions) and by pumping from the alluvium of the Carmel River. Additionally it pumps water from the aquifer below the Seaside Basin to service the Monterey Peninsula.

The suit contends that as a result of the over pumping, the Carmel River steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) could become extinct. Steelhead in the Carmel River were listed as a federally threatened species in 1997. They are anadromous fish that spawn and rear as juveniles in freshwater, but gain most of their growth in the ocean so fish passage through the Carmel River from Los Padres Dam is critical to their survival. Numbers have been in a steady decline since 2001 despite annual rescue efforts by

CRSA volunteers to move fish upstream as the river dries. Factors for decline for Carmel River steelhead are habitat blockages, dewatering from urban water diversions, habitat degradation, and agricultural and urban development on floodplains and riparian areas.

Sierra Club attorney Larry Silver of the California Environmental Law Project has been working with Chapter members and CRSA for over a dozen years on this issue. In the early 90s which experienced severe drought conditions, the steelhead numbers dropped to a handful. Paralleling the declining steelhead population during this period was the rising urban demand for water. In 1995 the Club and CRSA filed a complaint with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). SWRCB ruled that CalAm's Carmel Valley wells require a permit from the SWRCB to appropriate water, which CalAm to this date has not obtained. Accordingly, the SWRCB found that CalAm was diverting water unlawfully from the Carmel River.

The SWRCB also found that CalAm had rights to divert only 3,376 acre-feet annually. The SWRCB stated that: "Cal-

Am is diverting about 10,730 acre-feet annually from the Carmel River or its underflow without a valid basis of right." The SWRCB also found that CalAm's diversions were "having an adverse effect on: the riparian corridor along the river below San Clemente Dam, wildlife which depend on the instream flows and riparian habitat, and steelhead which spawn in the river." Accordingly, SWRCB ordered Cal-Am to immediately reduce its diversions from the river by 20%, to divert water as far downstream as practicable, and to take other remedial mitigation measures.

However, for the last fourteen years Cal-Am has continued to divert up to 11,285 acre-feet annually.

Commenting on the complaint, attorney Larry Silver said, "Many fish die, and a count done earlier this year found only 93 adult steelhead returned from the ocean to the river, a 75% decrease from previous years. This population could be gone and something needs to be done to promote the survival and recovery of the young steelhead."

A U.S. District Court hearing is scheduled September 18 before Judge Jeremy

Club proposes water supply plan for Monterey Peninsula area

by Julie Engell

In conjunction with several other community organizations, the Ventana Chapter has proposed the Hybrid Regional Plan, a water-supply project for the Monterey Peninsula and other areas within the California-American (CalAm) Water service district.

For decades, the Chapter has worked to protect watersheds like the Carmel River. We have also advocated for a sustainable water supply for the communities dependent upon that watershed. A sustainable water supply starts with using existing resources before developing costly projects such as the large desalination alternatives proposed in CalAm's Coastal Water Project DEIR.

Each of the alternatives evaluated in the DEIR has serious pitfalls. In the interests of avoiding them and expediting a real water supply solution, the Ventana Chapter, along with other non-profit community organizations, developed the Hybrid Regional Plan.

We did NOT propose a new approach. Rather, we proposed using a mix of the best elements evaluated in the Coastal Water Project DEIR, as well as some projects al-

ready in place. Within the data presented and analyzed were significant amounts of water available through conservation, leak repair, recycling, and reclamation—water that proponents of other plans chose to exclude. Because of our simultaneous commitment to people and to the environment, we chose to include these sources, which will reduce dependence upon desalinated water—a fiscally- and environmentally-costly water source.

In mid-July, the Ventana Chapter presented our joint proposal at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) public hearings in Monterey. According to PUC staff, the Public Utilities Commissioners are not bound by any one alternative evaluated in the DEIR. Commissioners may mix and match programs and elements evaluated in the DEIR to create the final Coastal Water Project. In that vein, the chapter presented the Hybrid Regional Plan—an environmentally-superior mix—for the PUC's consideration.

Depending upon need for further environmental review, the PUC is projected to make a final decision on the Coastal Water Project in late 2009 or early 2010.



Fogel in San Jose. Court documents and supporting declarations are posted on our website, www.ventana.sierraclub.org.

Protected land database now available

Getting a picture of the status of conservation efforts in the United States has just been made easier thanks to a new database that allows wildlife and conservation professionals to visit a single place to find comprehensive information on protected areas.

PAD-US is a national inventory of protected lands. In addition to providing comprehensive information about public lands in the United States, this geodatabase includes information that allows it to be incorporated into the United Nations' World Protected Areas Database, thereby aiding a new perspective on conservation efforts worldwide.

PAD-US contains information concerning more than 22,000 highly protected areas in the United States totaling almost 350 million acres, or 15% of the country's total land area (including Alaska, Puerto Rico, and Hawaii).

For each parcel, the database provides geographic boundaries, land classification (Federal, State, City, or Private), land owner or manager, management designation, holding name, and other key conservation information.

NOAA website provides resources for coastal cities dealing with climate change

Local communities can find out what other coastal cities are doing to adapt to anticipated sea level rises and other effects of climate change by visiting a new NOAA Coastal Climate Adaptation website. The site has many resources including local and state plans, new policies, case studies, risk and vulnerability assessments, and decision-support tools. In addition there is a forum where users can discuss issues and submit comments and questions. Visit <http://community.csc.noaa.gov/climateadaptation/>.

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State still considering new logging rules

Salmon protections fading as State serves industry

In the last *Ventana*, we reported on the struggle between environmentalists and the logging industry over the protection afforded to fish by the State logging rules. As we go to press, the fight continues.

The California Board of Forestry is close to a final decision on changes to a group of Forest Practice Rules called the Threatened or Impaired Watershed Rules. These rules apply to watersheds in the geographic range of Threatened and Endangered salmon species. Santa Cruz County is within this range. The first version of these rules took effect on January 1, 2000.

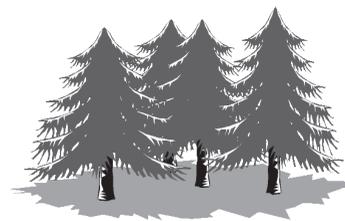
At that time these rules did not effectively deal with logging's effects on intermittent and ephemeral streams which are the small headwaters streams that only flow

during the winter. During the dry season they are either without water or do not have enough water flow to support fish. Nonetheless, these small streams are important to larger fish-bearing streams. Logging around intermittent streams has major impacts upon salmon habitat.

The rule package currently under consideration still does not meet federal salmon protection standards. Additionally, the proposed new rule package continues to completely ignore cumulative watershed impacts. In other words the rules would not address the problem of how disturbed a watershed may be when each additional logging plan in that watershed is reviewed. Finally, these proposed rules would make stream-side protections weaker for the

three redwood counties south of San Francisco, including Santa Cruz County, than for the rest of the California coast salmon habitat. These counties would get a narrower width protection on fish-bearing streams and almost no improvement for intermittent streams, even though our coho are listed as "endangered" and are on the verge of extinction. Coho are considered the most endangered species in California by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

This is a political process and salmon protection appears to be subordinate to political considerations. A decision could be made by the middle of August or early September.

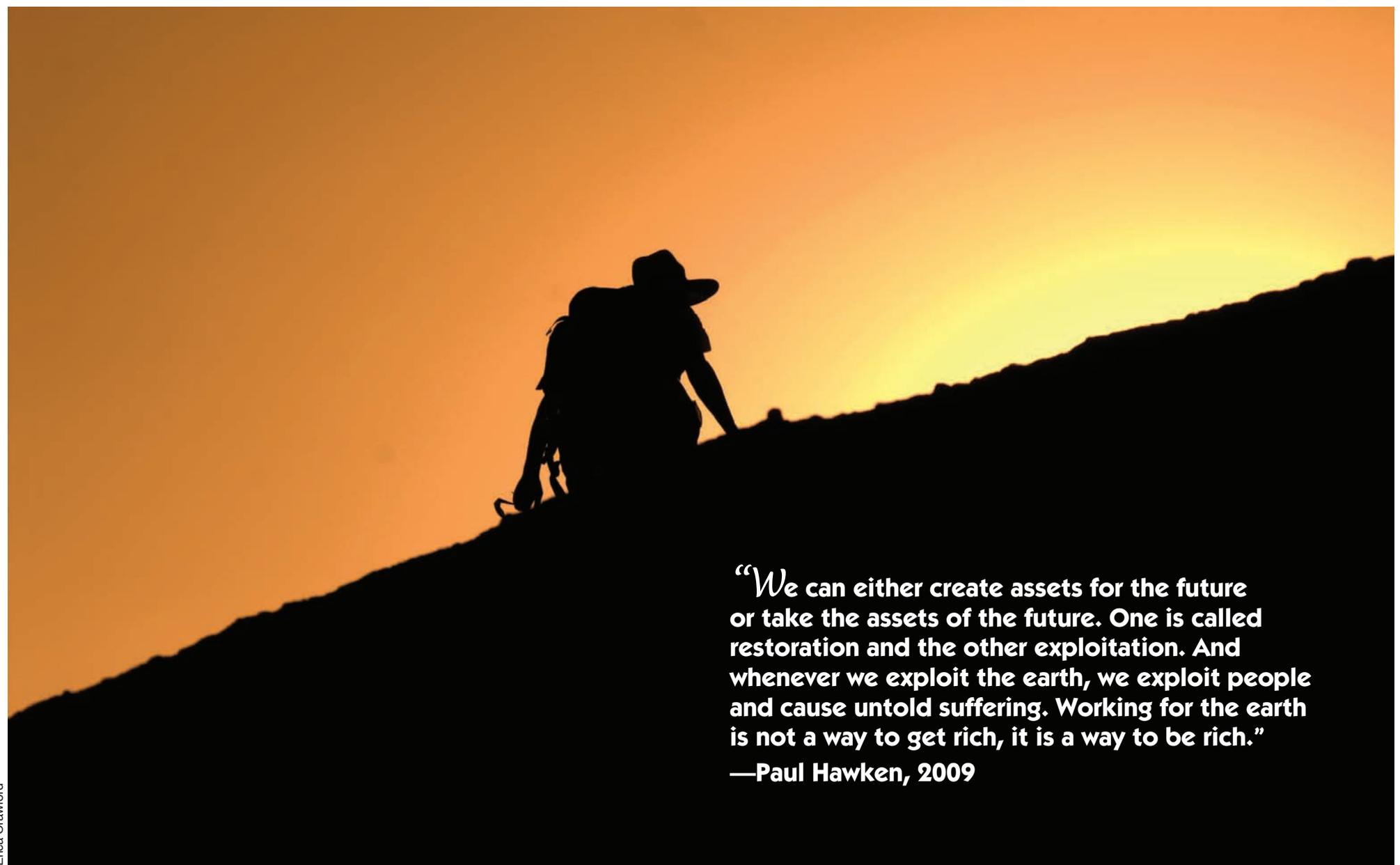


Regional Water Board weakens timber harvest monitoring

Despite the fact that most of the creeks in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties are listed as impaired for sediment, the Central Coast Regional Water Board voted on July 10 to weaken its role in monitoring timber harvests, a major cause of stream sedimentation. A half dozen dedicated forest and watershed advocates, including several informed Sierra Club members, spoke passionately at the hearing in Watsonville about the absurdity of allowing the dischargers to enroll themselves under the timber waiver program, without staff review of their applications.

Staff is now planning on reviewing only 3-4 timber harvest plans per year instead of all the plans. In Santa Cruz County alone, there are currently 10 timber harvest plans in process. Nine of these are in watersheds listed under the Federal Clean Water Act as impaired for sediment and siltation. The tenth is in a watershed that exceeds acceptable sedimentation levels by 90%.

Water Board staff claimed insufficient funding and staff time to properly conduct the timber harvest monitoring program, justifying the reduced oversight on the largely unsubstantiated grounds that logging creates minimal risk.



"We can either create assets for the future or take the assets of the future. One is called restoration and the other exploitation. And whenever we exploit the earth, we exploit people and cause untold suffering. Working for the earth is not a way to get rich, it is a way to be rich."

—Paul Hawken, 2009



Suzie Bulger Silverman

Old Growth Redwoods

by *Debbie Bulger*

Only 4% remains of the old growth redwoods that existed before logging began in California in 1850. The historic range consisted of two million acres.

To get an up-close view of what we have lost and the bit that remains, my daughter Suzie and I backpacked down Redwood Creek in Redwood National Park in June.

Unlike many second-growth redwood forests, or so-called "Trophy Groves" which preserve only trees and not the full habitat, old growth contains a wealth of diversity. Trees of all ages abide as well as a mix of species including redwoods, Doug fir, spruce, big-leaf maple, and a multi-layered understory.

The understory was so thick and varied

as to be almost impenetrable. There were Thimble berries, Salmon berries, shoulder-high ferns, shaggy lichens hanging down from branches, and mosses everywhere. Overgrown elk trails provided the only semblance of passage off trail. Toads hid among the litter, and the creek bed provided our travel way. The fog hung low, and much of the time the foliage was wet.

Downed trees and standing snags provided food for the large variety of birds and animals we observed. My daughter Suzie, who has a degree in wildlife biology, was the perfect guide. She was the first to spot the family of river otters on Redwood Creek. The mother otter seemed to be teaching her kids how to fish. They were a treat to watch.

Two female Common Mergansers paddled by as we hiked. One with eight young, the other with six swimming behind her.

Hiking on a trail paralleling Redwood Creek, we spotted a newborn elk calf and its mother just off the trail. The spotted calf was still unsteady as it wobbled after its mother.

Each morning and evening we were serenaded by the rattle of Kingfishers and the squeaky-brake imitation of the Varied Thrush. One morning I got up at 5:30 to

listen for marbled murrelets. Downstream trees poked out above the low-hanging fog producing a lovely, soft image.

Old Growth forests are exceedingly rare. Knowing more about what we have lost increases our appreciation for what remains.

Make a difference

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Legislative Action
Network**



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

Moving?

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

The post office charges us 70¢ each if they handle the address change.

Please help the Club by handling address changes in a timely fashion.

Thanks!



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- John Muir

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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

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WANTED Handy people cleaning people wood stackers

Help button up the Sierra Club ski huts for winter

The Club's backcountry ski huts are maintained by volunteers on weekends, when we do repairs and stock the cabins for the coming winter season. The fall work parties are a lot of fun. Contact the trip leaders below to volunteer. All work parties are overnights to the hut, and you should be prepared to backpack at least part way (although Ludlow and Bradley can usually be reached by vehicle). Ask your work party leader what you need to bring.

Work dates

September 12-13, Benson Hut. Contact Jim Gannon, 707-525-1052 or jgannon99@sbcglobal.net.

September 19-20, Ludlow Hut. Contact Joan Marshall, 650-364-8603 or marshall_joan1234@yahoo.com.

September 26-27, Bradley Hut. Contact Dick Simpson, 650-494-9272 or rsimpson@magellan.stanford.edu.

October 17-18, Peter Grubb Hut. Contact Joel Brody, 510-531-6566 or jrbrody@sbcglobal.net.

October 24-25, Peter Grubb Hut. Contact Harvey Ceaser, 925-937-1406 or ceaser3@juno.com.

Work party participants get priority when reservations are initially handed out for winter stays at any of the huts.



Peter Grubb hut in winter.



Head ranger

President Obama has nominated a career employee, Jon Jarvis, as the new head of the National Park Service. During the Bush administration, Jarvis spoke out against the commercialization of our National Parks. As head of the Pacific West Region of the Park Service, Jarvis required his 56 parks to become carbon neutral by 2016. Cool!

New Conservation Director

Sierra Club National has selected Sarah Hodgdon as its new Director of Conservation. Prior to this position, Hodgdon led the Club's Beyond Coal Campaign as Director of Climate Campaign Operations. Her goals include moving beyond coal, supporting clean energy, encouraging the transition to green transportation, and having economic sanctions against greenhouse gas-intense energy.

Fog is water

In the country of Eritrea on the coast of the Red Sea in Africa, the climate is hot and expected to get hotter. Water is scarce, rainfall inadequate. The village of Gahtelai in the highlands is harvesting water from fog. Fog collectors consisting of a fine mesh net where fog condenses, supply 14-20 liters of water/day per square meter of net. The water is used to irrigate vegetable gardens. Sounds like a good idea for our coastal farms.



Gahtelai fog collector.

Outdoors kids

The U.S. Department of the Interior will establish a new office dedicated to getting young people outdoors. The future of our wildlands will depend on fewer kids watching TV and playing video games and more kids going fishing, hiking, and just playing outdoors. In the works is a Youth Conservation Corps modeled after the CCC which provided jobs and outdoor experiences for people during the Great Depression.

Protection for Grand Canyon

On July 20, Interior Secretary Ken Salazar announced the Grand Canyon would be off limits to new uranium mining claims and development of existing unpatented claims. Representative Raul Grijalva from Arizona has introduced a bill to make these protections permanent.

LA vows to be coal free

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa has announced that Los Angeles intends to eliminate the use of coal by the city by 2020. Currently LA Power and Water generates 40% of its electric power from coal which it plans to replace with renewable energy.

The coal power currently used by Los Angeles comes almost entirely from two large power plants, the Intermountain Power Project in Utah and the Navajo plant in Arizona. The Navajo plant contributes significant air pollution to Grand Canyon National Park.

Come to the Sierra Nevada this fall

by Olivia Diaz

Fall at Clair Tappaan Lodge is golden. Located at 7000 feet in the Sierra Nevada, the lodge experiences sunny days and crisp nights. In late September and October the leaves turn. The Clair Tappaan Lodge and Hutchinson Lodge are located at 19940 Donner Pass Road in Norden/Soda Springs, California.

Activities

September 4, Full Moon Hike.

September 20-26, National Outing, 50+ Ridgetop Rambles.

September 25-27, Weekend Lodge Work Parties: Come and help spruce up the Lodge you love. Volunteer for 6 hours on both Saturday and Sunday in exchange for free lodging and meals during the weekend. We'll also send you home with a 20% discount for a future weekend. Let us know if

you have any special skills that you'd like to show off and share. Tasks during the weekend range from lodge cleaning and painting to firewood splitting and stacking and everything in between.

October 4-10, National Outing, Pastel Painting along Sierra Trails.

October 31 - November 1, Halloween party and Day of the Dead commemoration. Bring a costume, pumpkin(s) to carve and your tools, and a remembrance of a loved one who is no longer in this world.

November 26, Thanksgiving dinner at Clair Tappaan Lodge is always a fun event.

Reservations are required for all activities. Call 1-800-679-6775 for information and reservations or check out the website at ctl@sierraclub.org.

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: K-Mart Seaside

In the interest of facilitating the logistics of some outings, it is customary that participants make carpooling arrangements. The Sierra Club does not have insurance for carpooling arrangements and 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.

AUGUST

Saturday, August 8

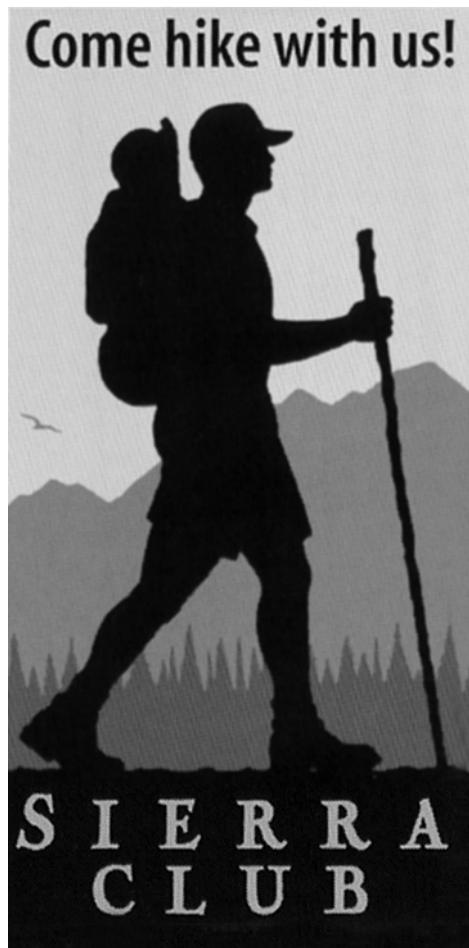
HIKE: NISENE MARKS

A different approach than usual to Sand Point Overlook, taking the fire road the entire way up. Enjoy spectacular views of Monterey Bay while eating lunch, then return via the beautiful trails along Hinckley Ridge, Big Stump Gap, and Loma Prieta Grade. 9 1/2 miles. Moderate uphill for 2 miles with 1600' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, comfortable shoes. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. Heat cancels; call Thursday or Friday before hike to get time. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428-2796.

Sunday, August 9

HIKE: ANDREW MOLERA

We'll start by climbing the ridge to great coastal views and drop to the beach for a leisurely lunch. Then we'll meander along the bluffs before wading across the Big Sur River and out to Molera Point for an interesting look towards the beach and a walk back via the Headlands trail. 10 miles and 600' elevation gain. Bring plenty of water and sunscreen! Meet at Sears 41st St. at 8:00 a.m. or Rio Road Park and Ride at 9:00 a.m. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.



Tuesday, August 11

HIKE: MILL CREEK REDWOOD PRESERVE

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

Tuesday, August 11

SENIOR HIKE: CABRILLO SALVA GARDEN

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

Saturday, August 15

HIKE: STEVENS CREEK COUNTY PARK

Table Mountain is a hike starting 2 miles north of Saratoga Gap down the northeast side of Skyline Ridge. 7 miles with 1000' elevation gain. Interesting views of the San Andreas rift. We'll do some optional

off-trail exploring to find the top of the table (poison oak, burrs in the socks, etc.). Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Monday, August 17

HIKE: PINNACLES WITH METEOR SHOWER

The peak for the Perseid Meteor Shower will be around August 12, but there will be a full moon that might prevent us from seeing them, so let's try on this date. Call for information a week in advance. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, August 18

SENIOR HIKE: POGONIP

Hike from Rincon Parking lot off Hwy. 9 to the Pogonip. 3 miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 9 from Hwy. 1 & River St. Go approx. 1 1/2 miles to Rincon Parking Lot on your right. Bring lunch, water, \$3 carpool. Leader: Helena Cantin, 438-4253.

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Saturday, August 22
HIKE: WILDER RANCH

This hike takes us through open meadows and several beautiful forested areas. Lunch at the top of the Eucalyptus Loop and enjoy a sweeping ocean view. 10-mile loop, 900' elevation gain. Bring water, lunch, and comfortable shoes. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center. Heat cancels; call Thurs or Fri before hike to get time. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428-2796.

Sunday, August 23
WALK: BIG SUR CANYONS

A warm sunny day in a cool redwood canyon. Perfect! We'll meander (and climb 500') along the Big Sur River to Buzzard's Roost, on the west side of Pfeiffer Big Sur SP. From there we'll drive south to check out a historic tunnel (rumrunners' favorite

spot!) which leads to Partington Cove, and look for a good lunch spot. A stop on the way back might include ice cream to replenish our lost calories, and a bit of music al fresco by the river. Bring water, lunch, wear walking shoes or boots. Plan to be back by mid to late afternoon. For meeting time and place, call by Friday, August 21. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, August 25
HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

On this 6-mile loop with 1200' elevation gain we hope to see California fuscias in bloom. We'll take our fairly strenuous hike at an easy pace through a redwood forest along a lovely creek up to spectacular vistas. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bombarger, 375-7777.

Tuesday, August 25
SENIOR WALK: NEW BRIGHTON / POTBELLY BEACH

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

Saturday, August 29
HIKE: FORT ORD DUNES / BEACH

It's summer. So let's go to the beach! The Fort Ord Dunes are open to the public. We'll climb the dunes to the former Officer's Club for a great view. Then down to the beach, several miles in each direction, maybe a cold bath? About 6 miles, very little elevation gain. Bring water, lunch, and a windbreaker. Meet at the gas station of Home Depot in Seaside at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Saturday, August 29
HIKE: BIG BASIN

Before satellites took over the job of spotting forest fires, humans in fire lookout stations did the job. Big Basin SP had three: Chalk Mtn., Eagle Rock and Sandy Point. This time we'll go to Chalk Mountain on the southwest side of the park. It will be about 9 miles and 1300' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call for more information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Sunday, August 30
WALK: POINT LOBOS

Join us for a walk to observe Sea Otters, Sea Lions, and Seals in their native habitat. I am a docent at the Park and usually can find a few Sea Otters in their favorite locations. We'll park off the highway and meet at the Entrance Gate at 11:00 a.m. This will be a relatively easy outing taking at most three hours, but we will make many stops for wildlife viewing and picture taking. Bring a lunch and water. Call for more info; carpools from Sears 41st Ave. in Santa Cruz are leaving at 10:15 a.m. Call for more information. Leader: Phyllis Hilton, 372-1714.

Sunday, August 30
HIKE: PICO BLANCO

Let's explore the old Pico Blanco Trail and see how far the fire got last year. We'll start from the Old Coast Road at the Little Sur Trail, cross the stream, and start the long climb over the shoulder of Pico Blanco. From Pico Blanco Camp there is a short trail to a beautiful deep pool with a fine waterfall. 11 miles and 1400' elevation gain. Bring a lot of water and lunch; wear hat and sun protection. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 8:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

SEPTEMBER

Friday - Monday, September 4 - 7
CAMPING: LASSEN NATIONAL PARK

A great way to spend the Labor Day weekend, camping, hiking, swimming, and lounging of course! One of the lesser visited parks, Lassen National Park offers lots to do without the crowds. Visit the park website, www.nps.gov/lavo/index.htm and look for Butte Lake first, then call me for more information. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Saturday, September 5
HIKE: NISENE MARKS

We'll park at Olive Springs for this car shuttle hike. 9-miles, 1200' elevation gain. The hike follows a fairly steep 3-mile trail up to Sand Point Overlook, where we'll have lunch. We'll then take the beautiful West Ridge Trail down to our cars at George's picnic area. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. Bring water, lunch, and comfortable shoes. Heat cancels; call Thurs or Fri before hike to get time. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428-2796.

Saturday, September 5
WALK: PEBBLE BEACH & ASILOMAR

A 4-mile loop, starting on neighborhood streets and then through dunes between fairways, out to Point Joe and back along the beach boardwalk. Quiet neighborhood, beach wildflowers, possible wildlife. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive and Asilomar Blvd., Pacific Grove. Call to reserve a place and for meeting time. Bring snack and water. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Wednesday, September 9
SENIOR HIKE: NISENE MARKS

HIKE IS ON A WEDNESDAY. 4-mile shady hike of the Hoffman Loop starting at Porter Picnic area, the last parking lot before iron gate. Narrow trails with some uphill to Hoffman Site. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the dirt parking lot before the Park entrance. Primitive restroom. Bring lunch, sit upon, repellent, \$2 carpool, and share of entrance fee. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Tuesday, September 8
HIKE: PEBBLE BEACH BERRIES

Yum! Let's see if the huckleberries, salal, and blackberries are ripe! After sampling what nature has to offer, we'll stop at Poppy Hills for a sandwich. 6 1/2 miles, 850' elevation gain, moderate pace with berry stops. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from the Safeway parking lot recycle shed on Hwy. 68 in Pacific Grove. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

ATTENTION: Potential Advertisers!

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Please fill out and mail the change of address form on p.15 or email address.changes@sierraclub.org
The post office charges us 70¢ each if they handle the address change.
Please help the Club by handling address changes in a timely fashion.

Thanks!

Harriet Brown
Attorney at Law
JD; LLM in Taxation

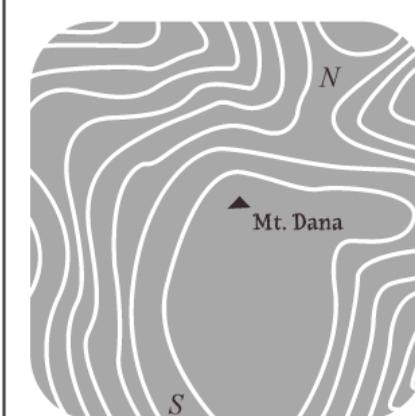


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OUTINGS

Tuesday, September 15

SENIOR HIKE: POINT LOBOS

Leader's favorite place. We'll park at Whalers Cove and hike the North Shore Trail, Allen Cypress Grove, then take Sand Hill Trail to Piney Woods for lunch. 3 miles, good trails, some moderate uphill. Heavy poison oak. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave or at Whalers Cove parking lot about 10:30 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water, \$5 carpool, and share of entrance fee. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Saturday, September 19

HIKE: BIG BASIN

Continuing the fire lookout tour, we'll go to Eagle Rock which has panoramic views from north to south from the southeast side of Big Basin. 6 miles with 1400' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, September 19

HIKE: CARMEL VALLEY TO SNIVELY RIDGE

We'll start from Mid Valley parking lot to walk up Holt Road all the way above Carmel Valley to Snively Ridge. If we're brave, we may attack Olmsby Peak and climb to the former Fire Lookout. Our way down takes us straight to the parking lot where one or two cars are waiting to take us back to the start. Expect great views in all directions. 10 miles or more and 1200' elevation gain. Bring a lot of water and lunch. Meet at Mid Valley Safeway near the Chase Bank at 8:30 a.m. Santa Cruz hikers should call for carpooling info. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Sunday, September 20

HIKE: PAT SPRING

A challenging 16-mile in and out hike into the Ventana Wilderness with 2000' elevation gain. This is a chance to see the effects of last year's fires and to get great views of the Ventana, the Double Cone, and other peaks. Expect to spend all day. Bring lots of water and a good lunch. Call for more information. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, September 22

HIKE: POINT LOBOS

On our 5-mile loop with minimal elevation gain we'll check out the new handicap access trails. We'll also enjoy the beauty of Point Lobos, its wildlife, and possibly a few flowers. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from the Rio



Getting to outings

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



Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Wednesday, September 23

SENIOR HIKE: GARLAND RANCH

THIS HIKE IS ON A WEDNESDAY. We'll hike from the Visitor's Center to the Maple Canyon Trail, Sage Trail, to the Fern Pond and Indian grinding rocks and return via the Nature Center. Some uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the parking area on Carmel Valley Road 8.6 miles from Hwy. 1. Bring lunch, water, sit upon, \$5 carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 475-4185.

Friday - Sunday, September 25 - 27

SERVICE / HIKING IN THE CARRIZO PLAINS

This is an opportunity to visit and to assist an outstanding and relatively unknown national monument. There will be an optional and scenic hike high in the Caliente Mountains on Friday. Others may join us for National Public Lands Day on Saturday when we will participate with other volunteers working on improvements for the Soda Lake Overlook. On Sunday we will tour a number of the historic, prehistoric, and geologic sites in the Monument. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670.

Saturday, September 26

HIKE: MCNEE RANCH

Rescheduled hike from May. A fairly steep hike to the top of Montara Mountain will reward us with spectacular views of the ocean to the west, Mt. Diablo to the east, and possibly a bobcat. If the weather is clear, views of the Golden Gate, Mt. Tam, and

the entire Point Reyes Peninsula are visible. 9 miles; 2000' elevation gain. Bring plenty of water, lunch, and comfortable shoes. Drive to trailhead takes about 1 hour. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center. Heat cancels; call Thurs or Fri before hike to get time. Leader: Pamela Burnham, 428-2796.

Sunday, September 27

WALK: WHALERS COVE, POINT LOBOS

Whalers Cove was the "industrial center" of this spectacular state reserve for many years. We'll wander from Cannery Point to the Ixchenta Village site and talk about the interaction of human activity and nature's bounty in the 19th and early 20th centuries. And of course, we'll also enjoy the timeless beauty of the scene. Dress in layers, bring a snack and water, optional binoculars, and plan to be back in town early to mid afternoon. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Rio Road Park & Ride. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Tuesday, September 29

SENIOR HIKE: SAN LORENZO LEVEE

3-mile architectural walk. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Gateway Plaza parking lot. Park near levee by Ross. Bring lunch, water, \$2 carpool. Leader: Janet Schwind, 425-3845.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 3

HIKE: BIG BASIN

Concluding the tour of Big Basin's fire lookouts, we'll go to Sandy Point on the northwest side of the



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park, starting on China Grade. 9 miles and 1500' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Call Nick for additional information. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, October 3

HIKE: SACRED MOUNTAIN STA YOKALE

A long time ago, water from the ocean rose and flooded the entire world except for the very top of Sta'yokale. Those first people who survived the deluge gathered on top of Eagle (Sa'yyo). Sa'yyo asked Kingfisher to dive down and get some mud from the bottom of the water. Kingfisher did so, but when he returned from the bottom, he died. Sa'yyo scraped mud from beneath Kingfisher's nails, which he rolled into four balls. He threw a ball to each of the four directions. The water receded, and the world became as it is today. And, the first people who had died were brought back to life. Sta'yokale, the sacred mountain, is the central feature in the ancient homeland and spiritual life of the Indigenous Salinan People. Please come join me on this 12-mile hike. Call for more information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.



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Sunday, October 4

HIKE: MISSION TRAILS PARK, CARMEL

Join me for a 2-3 mile walk in Mission Trails Park in Carmel to explore and enjoy wild lands in the middle of Carmel. We'll start across from the Carmel Mission on Rio Road and aim for the Outdoor Forest Theater and Flanders Mansion on the return. There will be a couple hundred feet of elevation gain, and trails may be sandy / slippery. We will be on city streets for part of the walk. Bring water and a snack. Please call me for earlyish starting time and a reservation. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, October 11

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

This 5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain features great terrain variety. We'll follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into the verdant redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for a spectacular view at lunch. Then we descend Rocky Ridge with more fine views. Boots are 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.

Tuesday, October 13

SENIOR HIKE: WADDELL / BIG BASIN

5-mile hike on tree-lined dirt roads, sun & shade. Some uphill. We'll take the Marsh Trail to Nature Center for lunch. Prepare for sun/heat/dust/fog/wind. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue or at 9:50 a.m. at Shen's at Mission & King Streets. Bring lunch, water, \$4 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Tuesday, October 13

HIKE: MAPLE FALLS

This 6-mile Nisene Marks hike with 700' elevation gain takes us through a lovely forest along beautiful

creeks and eventually to serene Maple Falls. Some agility is required. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 8:45 a.m. sharp from gas station by Home Depot in Seaside or from parking lot behind Aptos Station at 9:30 a.m. sharp. Call for a reservation. Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Friday, October 16

BIKE RIDE: PACIFIC GROVE TO MARINA VIA COASTAL TRAIL

Let's explore the links in the trail through Monterey and Sand City and see how they connect with the Monterey/Pacific Grove Rec. Trail and the Fort Ord Dunes State Park. Meet at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove at 10:00 a.m. at the start of the Rec. Trail. Please arrive with your bicycle in working condition, with the tires properly inflated. Our route will be almost all on paved bike trails, with some street work at the Marina end and behind Costco in Sand City. Expect a relatively flat ride with a few short, sharp hills. Be prepared for headwinds and some congestion on the trail, especially around Fisherman's Wharf area on the return. 30 miles, but we'll take it at a leisurely pace. Helmets mandatory. Bring water and lunch, which we'll eat at Locke Paddon Park in Marina. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.



Stimulus funds to benefit national forests

More than \$274 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds will be allocated for forest facilities and trails and related ecosystems and watersheds. Ten projects in California will receive \$76,732,000. Monies will be used for trail and bridge repair along the Pacific Crest Trail and other trails, and visitor center maintenance and improvements.

Project work will be completed by a variety of local partners including young adults from conservation corps crews. Trail maintenance activities include clearing fallen trees, repairing trail signs, improving water drainage, maintaining bridges, reducing erosion, repairing trailhead and parking areas, and trail decommissioning that eliminates unneeded trails. Projects include installing solar panels at some visitors' centers.



Dwight Goehring

Sierra Club hikers at the Forest of Nisene Marks.

Go take lead a hike

by Lynn Bomberger

Walking is one of the most beneficial forms of exercise that we can do for our health. It's one of the least expensive outdoor recreation activities, has a low rate of injury and can be done year round! When we walk for exercise, we can lose weight, increase cardiovascular capacity, improve balance, save our joints (versus running), manage stress, prevent osteoporosis, decrease cholesterol, and on and on. So, what more can we ask for? Well, we can add two more items to the list. One is to view, admire and learn about nature, and the other is to meet a variety of active people.

We are very lucky to have hundreds of miles of beautiful, trails nearby where there are group outings on the weekends and many week days. The hikes range from Senior Saunters to a 23-mile marathon hike. Most hikes are somewhere in between.

While it is great to get out and hike with a group, it is also enjoyable to lead hikes. Certainly there are some responsibilities but *there are many rewards*. At this time, we are seeking additional Sierra Club hike leaders. If you are interested, please contact Anneliese Suter, 624-1467, in the Monterey area, or George Jammal, 706-4233, in the Santa Cruz area. Or quiz your favorite Sierra Club hike leader.

Become a hike leader.



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Chapter Chair	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
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	Terry Hallock	P.O. Box 22993	Carmel, CA 93922	915-0266
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Alternate	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
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MEETING SCHEDULE

<p>Ventana Chapter (Monterey County) Information: 624-8032</p> <p>Executive Committee: First Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place and time</p> <p>Conservation Committee: For dates and times, call 655-8586.</p>	<p>Santa Cruz Regional Group Information: 426-4453</p> <p>Meeting place: Sierra Club Office, 1001 Center Street, Santa Cruz, Suite 11</p> <p>Executive Committee: Wednesday, August 12 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 9 at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p>Conservation Committee: Call for meeting times and dates, 761-3263.</p>
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The VENTANA
 MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



**AUG, SEP,
 OCT
 OUTINGS**

Pisaster ochraceus, commonly called the purple sea star, feeds on mussels and is a keystone species in maintaining biodiversity in rocky marine intertidal communities. They are often reddish, but their color can range from pale orange to dark brown or deep purple.

Gabriele Stocker

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet



Erica Crawford

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



Participate in the International Coastal Cleanup Day September 19, and help prevent tragedies such as the young sea lion in this photo being strangled by marine debris around its neck. See page 6 for contact numbers.

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