

The VENTANA

MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



Pat Dellin's fruit trees are watered from her washing machine.

**AUG, SEPT,
OCT
OUTINGS**

**Laundry to
landscape
watering**

**Early
election
picks**
✓

**Do we
really need
all those
plastic
bags?**

Explore, enjoy, and protect the planet

Wonderful whale watching

Last month saw a record amount of humpback and blue whales feeding in Monterey Bay. In sightings from land, and even better, from whale watching boats, there were often as many as 50–60 whales visible. Up close in the boats, a group I was with on a boat tour saw mothers with their calves, juveniles rolling over and over flashing their tails and even the pink roofs of their mouths as they took in the abundant krill. In addition to about a dozen blue whales and 40 humpbacks, we also saw three types of dolphins and a Black-footed Albatross! It has been seven years since we have seen this number of whales in the Bay.

The whales seem to show up overnight, apparently communicating miles away to others about the concentration of krill in our area. Naturalists on the whale boats said their depth sounders revealed krill close to the surface and most dense from 200 feet to the

unusually high concentration of krill but it was a good sign to see the Bay appear to have such a healthy population of marine life from the smallest microplankton to the largest animal on earth—the blue whale.

—Rita Dalessio



bottom, and at the ocean canyon near Carmel, at 450 feet. It is not clear what caused this

“How do you save a whale?
You have to protect the ocean.”

—Dr. Sylvia A. Earle

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 one of the contact numbers in the box below.

Santa Cruz members are eligible to serve either in Monterey at the Chapter level or in Santa Cruz at the Group level. Monterey members are eligible to serve at the Chapter level.

Nominating Committees

Monterey Chapter

(Contact Mary Gale, 626-3565, mymarobgale@gmail.com)

Nicole Charles
Rod Mills
Gillian Taylor
Steve Zmak

Santa Cruz Group

(Contact Debbie Bulger, 457-1036, dfbulger@cruzio.com)

Debbie Bulger
Paul Elerick
Peter Scott

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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.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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

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Editor:

Debbie Bulger, dfbulger@cruzio.com,

Production:

Debbie Bulger, Vivian Larkins, Dale Nutley

Writers:

Rita Dalessio, Debbie Bulger, Lesli Daniel, Jerry Meral

Photographers:

Nancy Stevens-Brown, Debbie Bulger, Mike Splain, Russell Boone, Ventana staff

Proofreaders:

Virginia Draper, Jeff Alford, Robin Drury

Distribution:

Keith Wood, Esperanza Hernandez, Beth Lilienthal, Debbie Bulger

Advertising Sales:

Debbie Bulger

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Anonymous

Chapter website:

<http://ventana.sierraclub.org>



2010

Ventana Publication Schedule

Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#5	Sept. 20	Oct. 6
#6	Nov. 29	Dec. 15

Articles received after deadline may not be published.



FROM THE EDITOR

Simpler times

As I write this, my granddaughters and their mother (my daughter) are visiting Laura Ingalls Wilder's home in South Dakota. The beloved stories of Laura's childhood have been read and cherished by generations of children since they were first published.

While my grandkids are gone, I've decided to reread these wonderful books so I can better converse with my granddaughters when they come home. After all, it had been over 50 years since I had read *Little House on the Prairie*, and I had not read all the books in the series.

It was astounding to revisit these children's classics from an adult perspective. I was especially struck by the stories of celebrating Christmas. The children were in seventh heaven over what today would be considered minimal presents.

When Laura and her sister Mary saw their gifts, they squealed with delight. Each had a new tin cup to drink out of. Each received a stick of peppermint candy, and each had a little heart-shaped cake with white sugar sprinkled on top. "The cups and the cakes and the candy were almost too much. They were too happy to speak."

But that wasn't all. In addition, each was

given "a shining bright new penny!" "There had never been such a Christmas."

In the third book of the series, *Farmer Boy*, Almanzo Wilder, who is nine years old and will eventually marry Laura when he grows up, celebrates Christmas at his father's prosperous farm in upstate New York. Almanzo and his brother and sisters jump out of bed before dawn to check their stockings.

Almanzo finds a real store-bought cap with ear muffs, a nickel's worth of candy, a new pair of mittens, an orange, a package of dried figs, and a jackknife with four blades. "He thought no boy ever had a better Christmas."

Can you imagine children today being extravagantly happy with these presents? But of course, these 19th century children were not exposed to a constant barrage of advertisements. It is estimated that the average U.S. child today watches between 25,000 and 40,000 commercials each year. By the time a child is 3, many can recognize at least 100 brand logos.

Pioneer days were simpler times. Laura Ingalls and Almanzo Wilder lived in a time when reduce/reuse/and recycle were part of normal living.

—Debbie Bulger

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!

“We are dying of consumption.”

—PETER DAUVERGNE,
UNIVERSITY BRITISH COLUMBIA

LETTERS

TheVentana welcomes letters

Send to:

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Ventana, 1603 King Street,

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

email: dfbulger@cruzio.com

Please include a phone number with your letter. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Letters may be edited for length.



Oil and Water

Despite the oil spill tragedy, Santa Cruzans are entertaining the idea of depending on oil for our water. Most Santa Cruz dwellers are responsible individuals who would be happy to conserve water all year long, given the necessary incentive, rather than have the city spend millions on a financially and environmentally expensive desalination plant. Those Santa Cruzans who haven't figured out that washing their cars at noon without a water-conserving nozzle means wasting water will eventually realize that a bucket and a rag achieves the same result and costs much less. Drought is a problem, but replacing it with a larger problem isn't the solution. It's time we come out from under the government skirts and take responsibility for our actions. The choice to build the plant is based on the faulty assumption that Santa Cruzans can't take responsibility for our water use, but in fact, we're more than willing!

—Brenda Barcelo
Santa Cruz

Selling desalination

The City of Santa Cruz Water Department and Soquel Creek Water District are joining forces to pursue desalination in the event of drought and to recharge aquifers.

As a gardener, I became interested in the issue because I knew it would affect my water bill. In the course of learning how desalination would impact my water bill, I also learned about potential impacts to marine life and the incredibly high energy use of desalination.

The two water departments are lobbying hard. They kicked off their education campaign with a wine and cheese function for the business community. They maintain that a drought would cause businesses to fail and that any development that would increase jobs or housing would be difficult if the city can't demonstrate an ability to meet water demands.

The two water departments are currently holding a series of public meetings geared to convince water customers that desalination is the best bet, in fact pretty much the only bet, to ensure we'll have enough water during the next drought. Unfortunately, the public is effectively gagged at these meetings. Questions must be submitted in writing, allowing no give and take between the questioner and the panel.

I have a lot of problems with the way they're going about promoting desalination, especially since I'm footing the bill for all the promotion.

Do we really need a desalination plant? There are a number of alternatives.

1. Water-neutral development, where developers are required to offset 100% of the demand they create by subsidizing con-

State bill would ban single-use plastic bags

by Lesli Daniel

Californians use approximately 19 billion single-use plastic bags each year. However, less than 5% of all single use plastic bags are recycled. Instead, many of these plastic bags become litter in our oceans and our communities. The California legislature is poised to pass a bill banning single-use plastic bags, and the Governor has said he'll sign it. But there is stiff opposition from the American Chemistry Council and other industry groups.

Additionally some local jurisdictions have banned single-use plastic bags or are investigating local ordinances. Santa Cruz County is currently investigating such a ban. San Francisco enacted a limited ban in 2007 at large grocery and drug stores and is discussing expanding the ban to more retail stores such as hardware and department stores.

Environmental impacts of single-use bags:

Ocean Pollution: An estimated 60-80% of marine debris is from plastics, and 90% of the floating debris is plastic. Eliminating single-use plastic bags is one way we can stop growing the North Pacific

Trash Gyre, which is now estimated to be the size of the United States.

Litter: The aerodynamics of single-use plastic bags have made them a huge source of litter. They are the second most common waste collected during coastal cleanups.

Hidden Costs: You might think that single-use bags are free, but it is estimated that to cost \$18-\$30/year on your grocery bill. Then there are the millions of taxpayer dollars spent on litter abatement and recycling.

Harm Wildlife: Plastic bags (which resemble jelly fish in the water) or pieces of

servation improvements for existing water customers.

2. Regional collaboration between water agencies. Santa Cruz may be able to help recharge Soquel Creek and Scotts Valley aquifers during high flow periods, in exchange for use of water during drought conditions.

3. Consistent conservation during normal years to save reservoir water for droughts. Last summer, water users cut their use 14%. The main restriction was limiting landscape watering to twice a week. Drip, soaker hoses, and hand-watered food gardens had no restrictions.

Santa Cruz County's water supply is locally derived from surface and groundwater sources. Let's keep it that way, without a desalination plant.

—Karin Grobe
Santa Cruz



Plastic bags were the most common plastic item found in the digestive tracts of leatherback turtles.

plastic bags can easily be mistaken for food or prey by seabirds, marine mammals, fish, and sea turtles. Littered plastic items harm hundreds of wildlife species. Plastic bags were the most common plastic item found in the digestive tracts of 408 leatherback sea turtles according to a 2009 study that reviewed historical necropsies.

Recycling isn't the answer. The California Legislature enacted a law in 2006 that required grocery stores and pharmacies to recycle single-use bags, but that program is capturing less than 5% of bags.

AB 1998 would:

- Ban single-use plastic bags at grocery stores, retail pharmacies, and convenience stores.
- Require retailers to offer recycled-content paper bags for a minimum fee of 5¢/bag.
- Require the sale of reusable bags.
- The bill does not apply to bags for bulk items (e.g., produce) or raw meat.

At press time this bill was on suspension in the Senate Appropriations Committee. To learn more, visit www.HealTheBay.org.

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVES

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
Comment Line: 202-456-1111

Vice President Joe Biden
202-456-1414

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814
916-445-2841
FAX: 916-445-4633
<http://gov.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 94111
go to website to email

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

U. S. Representative Sam Farr
100 W. Alisal Street, Salinas, CA 93901
831-429-1976 (Santa Cruz)
831-424-2229 (Salinas)
202-225-6791 (FAX, Washington, DC)
samfarr@mail.house.gov

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

State Senator

State Senator Joe Simitian
State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814
916-651-4011; FAX: 916-323-4529
Senator.Simitian@sen.ca.gov

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

Assembly Rep. Anna Caballero
State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 94249-0028
916-319-2028; FAX: 916-319-2128
100 West Alisal St., Suite 134
Salinas, CA 93901
Phone: 831-759-8676; FAX: 831-759-2961
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

Proposition 23 on November ballot would suspend our clean energy law

Prop 23 would suspend California's clean energy and clean air law. Four years ago, with support from businesses and environmental and health organizations, California passed AB 32, a law that sets new clean energy and pollution control standards in California. This clean air and clean energy law has launched our state to the forefront of the clean technology industry—sparking innovation and clean energy businesses that are creating hundreds of thousands of new California jobs. If passed, this initiative would kill competition and jobs from clean energy and technology businesses and stifle billions of dollars in economic investments.

Prop 23 is funded largely by two Texas oil companies, Valero and Tesoro, which are

the seventh and eighth largest polluters in California. Combined they are responsible for almost 17% of reported emissions in the state.

AB 32 has put California in a unique position to corner the clean tech market. California's clean technology sector received \$9 billion in cumulative venture capital investment from 2005-09, including \$2.1 billion investment capital in 2009—60% of the total in North America and more than five times the investment in our nearest competitor, Massachusetts.

If AB 32 is suspended, it will send a chilling message to investors and open the door for other states. According to the nonpartisan State Legislative Analyst, the suspension of AB 32 could: "dampen additional investments in clean energy technologies or in so-called 'green jobs' by private firms, thereby resulting in less economic activity than would otherwise be the case."

Projections of economic disaster resulting from AB 32 have been thoroughly debunked by independent economists and Legislative Analyst. Those seeking to suspend AB 32 cling to several studies by a Sacramento professor claiming economic doom and gloom. However, the Legislative Analyst recently evaluated these studies and concluded: "Our review of this study indicates that it contains a number of serious shortcomings that render its estimates of the annual economic costs of state regulations essentially useless."

Vote no on Prop 23.

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

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

Sierra Club California Endorses the Following Candidates:

Listed below are the endorsements that the Sierra Club has made for the upcoming November election.



UNITED STATES SENATE

✓ Barbara Boxer

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES:

✓ Anna Eshoo, District 14

✓ Sam Farr, District 17

STATEWIDE:

✓ Jerry Brown - Governor

✓ Gavin Newsom - Lieutenant Governor

✓ Kamala Harris - Attorney General

✓ Dave Jones - Insurance Commissioner

✓ Debra Bowen - Secretary of State

✓ Bill Lockyer - Treasurer

✓ John Chiang - Controller

✓ Bill Monning - AD 27

No on Prop 18 (water bond)

Yes on Prop 21 (state parks funding)

No on Prop 23 (suspend clean energy law)

Wetlands project update

The Elkhorn Slough Foundation was awarded an additional \$560,000 in Federal Stimulus Funds by NOAA in June. This grant is in addition to the almost \$4 million the Foundation received previously for implementation of the Parsons Slough sill discussed in previous issues of *The Ventana*. The project seeks to provide habitat protection and erosion control for over 400 acres of tidal wetlands. The Planning Team and Science Panel continue to meet to plan the details of the project. To learn more visit twpinfo@elkhornslough.org.

Finally metering

The City of Fresno started installing water meters for over 100,000 residential connections in July. The multi-year project must be completed by January 1, 2013, to comply with state law and a federal water contract. Metering will at last enable Fresno residents to spot water leaks and will provide usage information necessary to conserve water. Currently Fresno residents are charged a flat rate based on lot size.

Plastic baggage

More and more jurisdictions are banning or taxing plastic bags. Portland, OR, is the latest city to join the ranks of places getting rid of excess baggage. On July 28 the Portland City Council voted to support a statewide ban for 2011 or if the state bill

fails to pass, pursue a local ordinance. Previously San Francisco, Los Angeles, China, and Ireland have banned or charge for bags.

Keep moving

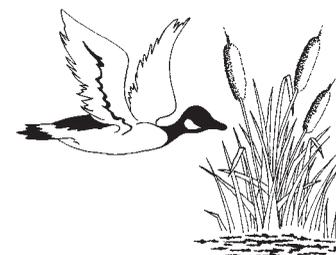
Good news for hikers. New data from the Women's Health Study (over 39,000 participants) show that women in the study who walked two or more hours weekly had a 30% lower risk of stroke than women who didn't walk. Those who walked at a brisk pace had a 37% lower risk.

Getting more than you thought

You switched your water bottle, now you might have to wear gloves when you pick up your ATM or cash register receipt. The Environmental Working Group reports that a University of Missouri lab found 250 to 1000 times the amount of BPA on certain receipts than in food can liners or plastic bottles. The researchers also discovered some retailers did not use BPA-laden paper for receipts. BPA can enter our bodies by putting fingers or food exposed to this chemical into our mouths. It can also be absorbed directly through the skin. To learn more visit www.ewg.org.

Dead ducks

A study led by the U.S. Geological Survey has reported that more than 1000 ducks died in Colorado partly from polyethylene glycol found on their feathers. The chemical, a surfactant, compromised the birds' ability to shed water. Some drowned or died of subsequent hypothermia. Surfactants are found in many household products such as cleaners, detergents, fabric softeners, and even soda pop. More research needs to be done, but investigators are concerned at the deaths which occurred at wastewater treatment plants. A similar phenomenon occurred in Monterey Bay in 2007.



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Monterey County deserves a professional fire prevention plan

Recent fires have spurred local activity in producing fuel reduction plans with the goal of receiving federal funding for effective protection of life and property from wildfire.

These plans are referred to as California Wildfire Prevention Plans or CWPPs. The Chapter supports this funding source for fire protection and has been actively involved in this process. For the past year, we have retained and consulted with attorneys, fire ecologists, other scientists,

sors is scheduled to vote on adopting it next month.

Poor science

The Plan has no scientific basis for most of its claims for fuel reduction, and best available, peer-reviewed science appears not to have been considered. It essentially declares all rural lands in Monterey County as being in a "state of emergency" and that over-mature chaparral is the problem.

CWPPs allow taxpayer dollars to be used

and recommendations for escape and avoidance in the event of fire. There should

also be a discussion of limits to building new development in areas prone to wildfire and more information explaining the role of traveling embers and urban fuels in home ignition.

This emphasis on clearing over a million acres of native plants also includes recommendations that environmental laws such as the Coastal Act, CEQA, NEPA, and Federal and State Endangered Species Acts be changed to allow this fuel reduction work without permits,

studies, mitigation, or other requirements. These important laws have been established over many years to protect citizens and the environment from poorly planned and/or capricious actions by private and governmental entities.

Indeed the extreme nature of the Monterey County CWPP becomes most evident when compared to CWPPs from neighboring counties. Other CWPPs were largely prepared and completed by professional wildfire planning consultants and specifically recognize the importance of complying with existing environmental laws. The Santa Cruz/San Mateo CWPP has 11 pages on Sensitive Habitat and permitting.

In addition to the above broad description of major flaws in the current MCCWPP, the plan is rife with smaller errors, is poorly organized, and does not adhere to basic CWPP guidelines. It contains off topic references to other fire documents, sets out unclear vegetation management proposals, invents terminology, misinterprets some laws, cavalierly eliminates others, and often states demonstrably false information regarding implementation of environmental law.

The Chapter has retained the law firm of



Lippe Gaffney Wagner, which has formally contacted the Fire Safe Council and the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. We have requested that good science, an accurate reflection of on the ground conditions, guidelines for property owners, and lawful language be included in the MCCWPP so the Board of Supervisors can approve a revised plan well in advance of the December federal fuel reduction grant cycle.

The safety of our hardworking fire personnel and the people in Monterey County should be the priority of any CWPP. The County deserves a professionally drafted MCCWPP that reflects the best science available and truly protects the community from wildfire.

To view the Chapter's legal and scientific responses to the MCCWPP, go to the website <http://ventana.sierraclub.org>.

The Plan calls for over 60 miles of permanent bare-soil firebreaks, up to 30 feet wide, on National Forest lands, half of which would be within the Ventana Wilderness Area, and 200-foot wide firebreaks on the former Fort Ord.

and fire consultants to review and assess several fire plans. Jodi Frediani, Forestry Consultant for the Chapter's Santa Cruz Group, diligently studied and contributed to several CWPPs in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. However, when Chapter members, environmental organizations, neighborhood groups, and other interested parties attempted to participate in the Monterey County CWPP (MCCWP), their efforts were rebuffed.

Non-native, weedy fuels can create extremely dangerous fires because they dry out sooner than native shrubs and ignite more easily.

The MCCWPP, while initially drafted by a professional wildfire planning consultant, was completed out of public view by a handful of rural residents and released in January. The scientific and conservation community was effectively excluded from the development of this Plan. Chapter comments submitted last August were rejected. Now, the Chapter and other environmental and homeowners groups oppose the Plan on four general points:

- The MCCWPP was not a collaborative effort as required,
- there is inadequate science applied for fire prevention and fuel reduction,
- the emphasis is on wide scale clearing of public parkland and neglects guidelines for private property fire protection, and
- the document calls for broad exemption from environmental laws.

The Monterey County Board of Supervi-

for fire risk reduction projects in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) zones established near federal lands, and the Plans specify the areas of WUI. Incredibly, this MCCWPP designates 1,266,110 acres (a whopping 60% of Monterey County) as WUI when in fact, peer-reviewed, nation-wide WUI analysis by experts concluded that only 153,786 acres or 7.6 % of the County qualifies as WUI.

Using this high figure the MCCWPP furthermore advocates for modifying over a million acres of native habitat in 20-year rotation cycles that will lead to the degradation of native shrubland plant communities. For instance, the Plan calls for over 60 miles of permanent bare-soil firebreaks, up to 30 feet wide, on National Forest lands, half of which would be within the Ventana Wilderness Area, and 200-foot wide firebreaks on the former Fort Ord.

This degradation could result in their conversion to non-native, flammable weedlands.

Irresponsible fuel removal and damage to native shrub land as recommended by this Plan seriously underestimates the potential of herbaceous and grassy fuels. Non-native, weedy fuels can create extremely dangerous fires because they dry out sooner than native shrubs, ignite more easily, and create massive amounts of heat instantly. Fires fueled by dried, non-native, invasive grasses have caused deaths to fire fighters in Sacramento in 2008 and in Riverside County in 2006. One of the common factors in firefighter fatalities is the presence of highly-flammable grassy fuels.

The MCCWPP also compares unfavorably with other CWPPs adopted in California. It relies nearly exclusively on removal of native vegetation on public lands for fire prevention rather than providing private property owners with additional guidelines for reducing ignitability of structures

Fires fueled by dried, non-native, invasive grasses have caused deaths to fire fighters.



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Atrazine affects fish reproduction

Atrazine, one of the most commonly used herbicides in the world, has been shown to affect reproduction of fish, according to a new U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) study. "Concentrations of atrazine commonly found in agricultural streams and rivers caused reduced reproduction and spawning, as well as tissue abnormalities in laboratory studies with fish," said USGS scientist Donald Tillitt, the lead author of the study published in *Aquatic Toxicology*.

Fathead minnows were exposed to atrazine at the USGS Columbia Environmental Research Center in Columbia, Missouri, and observed for effects on egg production, tissue abnormalities, and hormone levels. Substantial reproductive effects were observed at concentrations below the EPA water-quality guideline.

Study results show that normal reproductive cycling was disrupted by atrazine and fish did not spawn as much or as well when exposed to atrazine. Researchers found that total egg production was lower in all atrazine-exposed fish, as compared to the non-exposed fish, within 17 to 20 days of exposure. In addition, atrazine-exposed fish spawned less, and there were abnormalities in reproductive tissues of both males and females.

Atrazine is one of the most commonly-used herbicides in the world and is used on most corn, sugarcane, and sorghum acreage in the United States. It is used to stop pre- and post-emergence broadleaf and grassy weeds, and is generally applied in the spring when most fish in North America are attempting to reproduce.

Opt out of unwanted phone books

Are you tired of receiving phone books you don't need or use? Several competing companies deliver these books whether you want them or not.

If you would rather not get some or all of these, you can opt out. All new phone books feature a phone number for residents and businesses to be removed from the delivery list or to order additional directories. The toll-free numbers to call are:

YellowBook: 800 YBYELLOW (800-929-3556)

Valley Yellow Pages: 800-350-8887

AT&T Yellow Pages: 866-329-7118

Residents may also opt-out of phone book delivery via YPA's Consumer Choice website at www.yellowpagesoptout.com.

These directories are delivered at different times of the year depending on the company. Old phone books can be recycled as can the plastic bags that may contain new directories.

Sierra Club Events

Sunday - Tuesday, October 17-19

Channel Islands

California's Channel Islands are Galapagos USA! Three-day fundraiser cruise on October 17-19 sponsored by Sierra Club. All depart from Santa Barbara. Fee: \$590 includes bunk, meals, snacks, beverages, plus the services of a ranger/naturalist who will lead hikes. For more info contact jholtzhl@aol.com. To make a reservation mail a \$100 check payable to Sierra Club to leaders: Joan Jones Holtz & Don Holtz, 11826 The Wye St, El Monte, CA 91732.

A curious seal watches the photographer on a Channel Island trip last year.



Russell Boone

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.

Thursday - Sunday, August 24-29

Blue Ocean Film Festival

View the world's best ocean films and hear from the filmmakers. Featured speakers include Jean-Michel Cousteau, Dr. Sylvia Earle, and Brian Skerry, a *National Geographic* photographer. Passes available for purchase at www.blueoceanfilmfestival.org or by calling 324-0357. Various locations in Monterey.

Sunday, August 29

Solar Oven Cookout

Learn about solar cooking. Solar cookers can reduce your carbon footprint, are great for power outages, and allow you to cook on the beach or while camping. Talks on solar ovens and tips on how to build your own. Bring prepared food to share. From 3-5 p.m., sharing/learning/fun. Picnic/Potluck starts at 5 p.m. Lone Tree Picnic Area, DeLaveaga Park, Santa Cruz. For more info, 427-9916.

Wednesday, October 6

Santa Cruz City Council Candidate Forum

Learn where Santa Cruz City Council candidates stand on desalination and city water resources. Transition Santa Cruz and the

To change address by email:
address.changes@sierraclub.org

Membership inquiries:
membership.services@sierraclub.org

Community Water Coalition will host a forum from 7-8:30 p.m., Loudon Nelson Center, 301 Center Street, Santa Cruz.

Wilderness First Aid

Be prepared for an emergency when you are hiking or backpacking. Two-day, 20 hour wilderness first aid classes will be held at Big Sur Station with group camp at Pfeiffer State Park. Participants will learn fundamental wilderness medicine, develop judgment skills for outdoor emergencies, and earn CPR certificate from Backcountry Medical Guides. To register visit <http://backcountrymedicalguides.com>. \$190 cost includes some meals and camping fee.

October 9-10
December 18-19

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

Volunteers are needed to weed invasives at Pilkington Creek, at the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, 1305 East Cliff Drive. Remove English Ivy and New Zealand Mattress Wire Vine. Learn what plants belong in the riparian environment. Wear long sleeves and closed-toe shoes. Bring gloves and tools if you have them. 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. For more info, contact Nancy Lenz, 426-5252.

Saturday, September 11
Saturday, October 2
Saturday, October 23

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.

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.

Watsonville Fourth Saturday

Habitat restoration - Watsonville

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

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.

A great way to save water

by Debbie Bulger

When Sierra Club member Pat Dellin does her laundry in the summer, she waters her fruit trees. That's because Dellin, who lives on the eastside of Santa Cruz, has put in a laundry-to-landscape irrigation system.

Constructing her new system was made easier by changes this year to the State plumbing code which now exempts laundry-to-landscape graywater systems from construction permitting. More complicated graywater installations, such as using drain water from bathtubs and showers, do require a permit.

Dellin learned about using graywater from her next door neighbor, LeAnne Ravinale, a certified graywater installer who works with Love's Gardens. Since Pat was already environmentally aware and has solar panels on her roof and a permeable patio area in the backyard instead of concrete, installing a laundry-to-landscape system was just the next step.

When asked why she put in the water-saving system, Pat joked, "So I could keep up with my neighbor—not really! I like to use as little water as possible." Laundry-to-landscape systems typically cost about \$1000, however; Pat has reduced the cost somewhat by doing some of the work herself under LeAnne's guidance.

How it works

Water expelled from the washing machine can either flow into the sewer line or, if a handle is turned, be diverted to the yard for irrigation. The water flows out of the washing machine into a plastic pipe which leads to the yard. From the main pipe, flexible half-inch lines lead to mulch beds around selected plants. The outlet end of the half-inch line, which can contain lint and other solids from the wash, must be buried under at least two inches of mulch. When constructing a system, LeAnne likes to enclose the outlets under old gallon plant containers to keep them clean.

When wash water is used on landscaping, the homeowner must take care that the water does not contain bleach or other laundry products that could harm plants.



Debbie Bulger

LeAnne Ravinale demonstrates the diversion valve she has just installed on Pat Dellin's washing machine drain.

Water from washing diapers or infectious material must go into the sewer line. The diversion valve should be clearly marked so that anyone using the washing machine (housesitters, relatives) knows how it works and what products can and cannot be used. Many installers are happy to supply a list of safe laundry products. Not all products labeled as "green" are appropriate to use on landscaping, so it is wise to check the ingredients. For example, sodium-based products should not be put on plants.

During the rainy season when the ground may be saturated, less water would be di-

verted to the landscape, since graywater can't be stored for more than 24 hours. The system must be designed correctly so water doesn't pool and attract mosquitoes. Graywater can't be used in a sprinkler or sprayed but can be used in drip irrigation if filtered.

Laundry-to-landscape systems can be installed in a day. LeAnne received her training through the Green Gardener Certification program which was the recipient of Stimulus Funds from the Federal Government. The grant was to provide graywater training to landscape and plumbing professionals in Monterey and Santa Cruz

Counties. The Green Gardener Graywater Training Program in Santa Cruz is a partnership between the Santa Cruz County Workforce Investment Board, Cabrillo College, the Watsonville Adult School, and Ecology Action.

Graywater is defined by the State of California as all sink, shower, bath, and laundry water. Kitchen, dishwasher, and toilet water are considered to be "black" water and cannot be used in the yard. Reusing graywater reduces the demand for drinkable water and contributes to water conservation.

Using graywater can help you achieve a "water neutral garden." It is an important component along with drip irrigation, native and drought tolerant plants, and rainwater harvesting. The Soquel Creek Water District started offering rebates for graywater installation on July 1 of this year. To date other local jurisdictions have not followed suit.

For detailed information for both Monterey and Santa Cruz residents including how to obtain a permit, if needed, and what to expect from a professional graywater consultation, check the Ecology Action website, www.ecoact.org/Programs/Pollution_Prevention/Graywater.



Debbie Bulger

Pat Dellin holds a plum she has just picked.

Deborah A. Malkin

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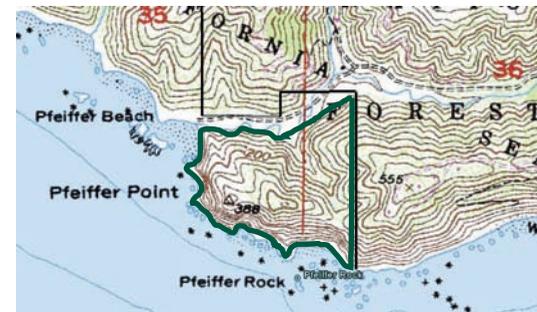


Help designate an exquisite area in memory of Jeff Norman



Mike Splain

Coast Dudleya (Dudleya caespitosa), which grows only in California, clings to rocky outcrops in the proposed Botanical Area..



— National Forest Boundary
— Proposed Botanical Area Boundary

Representative Sam Farr has introduced a bill (HR 4040) in the U.S. House of Representatives to designate 65 acres at Pfeiffer Point the Jeff Norman Botanical Area. If passed into law, this area would be a fitting memorial for Jeff Norman who passed away in 2007.

Norman, a consulting botanist for California State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service, worked to understand and conserve the biodiversity of the Santa Lucia Range. Among Norman's myriad discoveries was the ecological significance of a vegetation complex at Pfeiffer Point. Although generally considered Maritime Chaparral, such a classification paints an incomplete picture. Chaparral components like Carmel ceanothus and endemic Little Sur manzanita are certainly plentiful here; but so too are Coastal Scrub, Oak Woodland, and even Redwood Forest species. All seem to compete on a more or less even playing field, where dwarfed stature is the only defense from salt spray and perennial wind.

How to help

Please write Representative Farr (see p. 3 for contact info.) expressing your support for the Jeff Norman Botanical Area and HR 4040. To take a virtual tour of the area visit: www.ventanawild.org/hr4040/a-visit-to-the-jeff-norman-botanical-area.html.

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City fast-tracking new trail on Pogonip

Will there be a serious consideration of alternatives?

In late July after only two weeks of limited public notice, the Santa Cruz City Council unanimously approved spending \$25,000 to study a new single-track multi-use trail in the Pogonip, a 640-acre greenbelt between UCSC and Highway 9. City parks staff were instructed to return to the Council in November with a design and environmental study.

The proposed 1.5-mile trail would extend from Golf Club Drive, just within the Pogonip boundary, north to the U-Con trail. Park staff, city fire and police officers, and residents in favor of the new trail contend that the proposed trail would alleviate the drug and trash problem on the Pogonip. There is no evidence that such a trail would either reduce or drive out drug dealing or illegal camping on the Pogonip, both of which are long-standing problems in the city not confined to this greenbelt property.

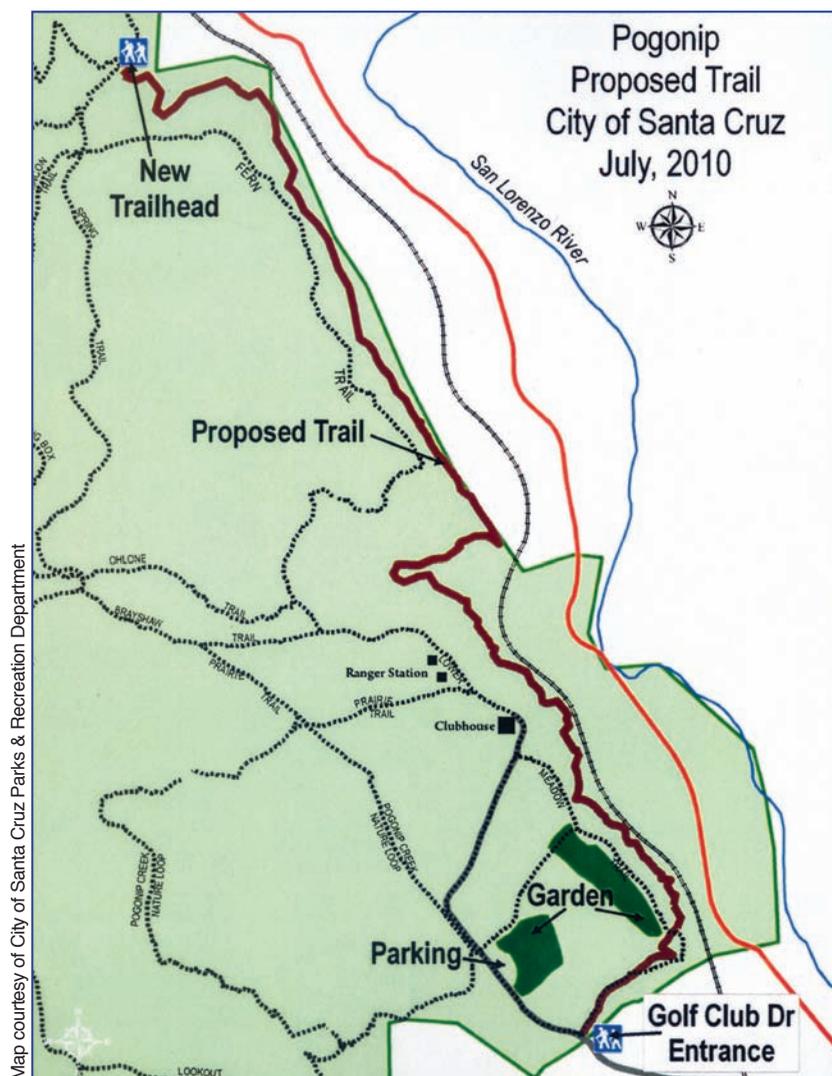
The presence of bicyclists and pedestrians along the San Lorenzo River levee has not stopped illegal activity there. The possibility of linking the levee trail to the Pogonip may actually *increase* access for illegal activities in Pogonip, not decrease such activity as some claim. Indeed, since the Pogonip is closed at night when much covert activity occurs, a new trail might facilitate nighttime use.

Construction of a new multi-use trail on the Pogonip would require amendment of the Pogonip Master Plan, which was adopted in 1998 after extensive debate and community input about trail users. At that time, trail use on the Pogonip was limited to pedestrians with the exception of the U-Con Trail and the Lower Rincon Trail which are open to bicycles and horses.

The Sierra Club opposes the proposed trail even though the Club agrees that mountain biking is a legitimate form of recreation and transportation on trails when it is practiced in an environmentally sound and socially responsible manner. The Club national policy concerning off road use of bicycles does not give a blanket endorsement to mountain biking on all trails. The policy notes concerns including "soil erosion, impacts on plants and animals, displacement of other trail users, and impacts on other users' safety and enjoyment."

In 1998 nearly 600 people signed a Sierra Club petition opposing bicycle use on Pogonip. The Club endorsed the compromise U-Con connector trail, but agreed with the adopted Pogonip Master Plan that the remainder of the Pogonip would be closed to bikes to provide hikers with the serenity and natural beauty noted in the vision statement for the Pogonip.

Hikers on single-track trails used by bicyclists are often faced with sudden encounters with bikes moving as much as 10 times faster than many hikers. This situation is especially frightening for older hikers and



The maroon line depicts the route of the proposed trail. The orange line is Highway 9. Between them is the rail line up to Felton.

parents of young children. As a result, *when narrow trails are opened to mountain bikers, many hikers are displaced and no longer use trails where they cannot relax and enjoy the natural environment* without feeling in danger of being hit by a speeding bicyclist.

In the Forest of Nisene Marks before bicyclists were banned from the upper trails, many bicyclists caused serious erosion; some carved illegal segments in steep, erosion-prone areas. From the upper UCSC campus, steep, illegal bike trails such as the "Lock-em-up" or "Dead Camper" trails from UCSC to Highway 9 demonstrate there is lax enforcement. During winter rains, steep ruts become small streams which carry sediment into creek beds damaging steelhead habitat.

There are many questions regarding this proposed new trail.

- Would such a trail really have a positive impact on the drug/camping problem?
- Would the trail provide easier access for illegal activities?
- What would this new trail cost including associated expenses such as parking spaces and improvements to Golf Club Drive?
- Will the environmental study consider alternative routes for a bike connection?

• Will the environmental study consider the impact that will likely occur as bikes spread illegally to all other hiking trails if the new trail is built?

• Would poor visibility in the forest on a narrow trail create dangerous hiker/bicyclist conflicts?

• If trail users reported suspicious activity, what would be the response time of police and emergency personnel? Is there cell phone reception throughout the area?

• Are there more effective ways to deal with drug problems on the Pogonip?

How to help

If you would like to help protect the Pogonip, contact Celia or Peter Scott, 429-6166, drip@ucsc.edu. If you are able to participate in future clean-up events on the Pogonip, please let them know.

Meeting about trail

Wednesday, September 1, 7-9:00 p.m. Harvey West Clubhouse. Learn more about the project, and share your ideas and concerns with City Parks and Recreation staff. Contact parksandrec@cityofsantacruz.com, 420-5270.

Long-toed salamander habit up for review

The public has until August 30 to comment on the Environmental Assessment and management plan for the next 15 years for the Ellicott Slough National Wildlife Refuge. The Refuge is located south and east of La Selva Beach between Manresa State Beach and Highway 1. Copies of the draft plan and other information can be found at <http://www.fws.gov>. Type "Ellicott Slough NWR" in the search window. For more information, email Sandy Osborn, fw8plancomments@fws.gov. Include "Ellicott Slough CCP" in the subject line of the message.

The nearly 300-acre Ellicott Slough NWR consists of three noncontiguous units. The refuge was established in 1975 to protect the endangered Santa Cruz long-toed salamander. Due to the sensitivity of the habitat, the Refuge is currently closed to the public. This CCP process will determine whether any wildlife-dependent recreation should be made available to the public.

Three alternatives exist in the plan. Alternative A is no action; the refuge would continue to be closed to the public.

In Alternative B, the preferred alternative, Fish and Wildlife would improve the habitat for the salamander, develop a trail system, expand on-site restoration education with local schools, and develop in-class environmental education among other actions.

Alternative C includes all actions of Alternative B plus additional natural resource surveys, expanded control of invasive vegetation, reintroduction of listed plants, and improved outreach to the community.

Coastal Commission denies logging change for Santa Cruz coast

At the July California Coastal Commission meeting in Sonoma County, Commissioners voted to deny a change in the Local Coastal Plan for Santa Cruz County. The change would have allowed logging in the Commercial Agricultural Zone District in the Coastal Zone. Currently logging is allowed in Commercial Agricultural Zones outside the Coastal Zone in Santa Cruz County.

After the Committee for Green Foothills, a grassroots group working to protect lands on the San Francisco Peninsula, expressed concern that such a change in Santa Cruz County would lead to similar changes in other coastal counties, the commission voted unanimously to deny the change.

The Coastal Commission staff had no maps showing how many parcels would be affected, where they were located, the size of such parcels, or how many might have endangered species habitat.

Landowners who wish to log may seek rezoning of parcels to Timber Preserve.

Our State Parks are in peril

Prop 21 would establish dedicated and reliable funding

Vote YES on Prop 21



*Jerry Meral, Board of Directors
National Wildlife Federation*

California's 278 state parks and beaches comprise 1.5 million acres of outdoor space, offering vital protection to unique ecosystems and recreation areas. Nearly a third of California's coast has been preserved in its native state because of the state's 64 state beaches. Home to more than 160 rare, threatened, and endangered species, state parks are priceless public assets and vital legacies for our children and grandchildren.

Unfortunately, our State Parks are in peril. Chronic underfunding has starved State Parks for decades. Twice in the past two years, state parks were on the brink of being shut down. Only last-minute budget reprieves kept them open. California's parks are becoming less available to the public and are at serious risk of irreversible damage.

Chronic underfunding has forced state parks to amass more than \$1 billion in needed maintenance and repairs. Roofs

and sewage systems leak, restrooms are not cleaned regularly, bridges have collapsed, trails are washed out, campgrounds and visitor centers are shuttered, and buildings and structures throughout the system are badly deteriorated. Thousands of scenic acres are closed to the public because of reductions in park rangers, and crime has more than doubled. Destruction and vandalism of the parks themselves has grown fourfold, and swimmers are often unprotected because of decreases in lifeguards. The conditions in California's state parks are so bad that the National Trust for Historic Preservation placed California state parks on its 2010 list of the 11 most endangered historic places. Native plants and animals are seriously threatened by invasive species, and little is being done about it.

Locally, the lifeguard fund is so low in Santa Cruz County that continuous cuts to staff are likely. At Monterey State Historic Park the Custom House museum, Pacific House museum, and the Robert Louis Stevenson house were forced to close for six

months while the adobe homes continue to be closed on a regular basis.

Similar maintenance problems face the hundreds of thousands of acres managed for wildlife protection by the California Department of Fish and Game. These lands, most of which were acquired to protect rare or endangered species, suffer from a lack of attention by qualified staff. They are threatened with invasive plant species, trespass, poaching, and illegal collection of plants and animals.

Prop. 21, on the November 2 ballot, will create the State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund. Prop. 21 will establish a dedicated and reliable funding stream for state parks and wildlife areas to ensure they can be enjoyed for generations to come. In exchange for free year-round day-use admission to all state parks, Californians will pay an \$18 fee as part of the annual vehicle license fee (except for larger commercial vehicles, mobile homes and permanent trailers) to support state parks and wildlife conservation.

Under Prop. 21, approximately \$500 million will be generated annually

to support state parks and wildlife areas. The trust fund ensures that state parks and wildlife areas will have the funds necessary to begin addressing the maintenance backlog and to ensure these rare natural habitats are protected. Without the funding provided by Prop. 21, we stand to lose the important legacy of our state parks for future generations.

Prop. 21 will ensure state parks and wildlife areas have the long-term, stable and adequate funding needed to remain accessible and maintained for future generations.

We encourage you to learn more about Prop. 21 at www.YesForStateParks.com.

New law will protect Americans from formaldehyde

Congress has passed and President Obama has signed legislation in July enacting national standards for formaldehyde in composite wood products. Formaldehyde dramatically came to national attention when tens of thousands of families housed in travel trailers after Hurricane Katrina became ill.

The standards signed into law match those recently adopted by the California Air Resources Board, which dramatically reduce formaldehyde off-gassing that can cause watery eyes, headaches, depression, memory problems, and cancer. People with existing respiratory conditions such as asthma and emphysema are especially susceptible to formaldehyde's toxic effects. The new law will significantly reduce formaldehyde levels in products such as furniture, cabinets, shelving, countertops, flooring,

and molding.

The Sierra Club and a broad coalition of groups and citizens concerned about public health submitted a petition to the Environmental Protection Agency asking that the Agency adopt the more protective formaldehyde standards already in place in California and extend them to manufactured housing. Key coalition partners included the United Steelworkers and the National Center for Healthy Housing. As the first organization to publicize the toxicity of formaldehyde-laden emergency housing after Hurricane Katrina, the Sierra Club has taken a lead role in fighting for better disaster assistance and stronger regulations.

A rare treat



Debbie Bulger

Jesalee Lapatra (l) and Denise Lane (r) examine an unusual albino redwood on Lynn Bomberger's Land of Medicine Buddha hike in July.

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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. 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

Wednesday, August 18

HIKE: POGONIP

Stop at old spring boxes, lime kilns, and old clubhouse. Hike through meadows, redwoods, and a few creeks. Bring water and lunch. 6 1/2 miles, 600' elevation gain. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

Saturday, August 21

HIKE: LOS PADRES DAM/CARMEL RIVER.

Let's start at Princes Camp, walk to the Los Padres Dam, and hike up the Carmel River as far as we want. Should be shady most of the time and the creek crossings are easy. Maybe there will be enough water for a dip at Bluff Camp. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Mid Valley Shopping Center in Carmel at 8:00 a.m. Park opposite the Chase Bank. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Saturday, August 21

WALK: POGONIP

Please join Friends of the Pogonip to explore and learn about various options for a multi-use trail now under consideration by the City of Santa Cruz. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. for a short carpool to the start of the walk, which will last about three hours. Contact leader Peter Scott, 423-0796, drip@ucsc.edu if you have questions.

Saturday - Sunday, August 21 - 22

BRISTLECONE PINES

Come with us to the beautiful White Mountains to camp, hike, and just relax. On Saturday, we'll hike the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest on a moderate 5-mile round trip interpretive trail, followed by a picnic lunch and a short optional hike to a nearby old mining cabin. Back at camp, we'll enjoy Happy Hour, a potluck feast, and a campfire. Sunday pack up and head home. Group size strictly limited. Send \$8 per person (Sierra Club), 2 large SASE, H&W phones, email, rideshare info to Reservationist/Leader: Lygeia Gerard, P.O. Box 294726, Phelan, CA 92329, 760-868-2179.

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!

Sunday, August 22

HIKE: PINNACLES FULL MOON

Experience this 23 million-year-old volcano (that is moving at 1/4 of an inch a year) as you never have before. It's like being on another planet. You will be able to use your wildest imagination when seeing the jagged formation set before you. Call leader and leave your information, so call can be returned. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.



Tuesday, August 24

SENIOR WALK: NEW BRIGHTON BEACH

Leader will take us along the back way down to the beach past museum and cement ship. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Avenue. 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.

Tuesday, August 24

HIKE: GARZAS CREEK

Our 4 1/2-mile loop with 800' elevation gain takes us through a redwood canyon and along Garzas Creek with six picturesque crossings. Stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 10:00 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bombberger, 375-7777.

Sunday, August 29

HIKE: HENRY COWELL

A meandering hike through the wonderfully diverse terrain of this local crown jewel. This park shows almost everything our local area has to offer in bird and plant life. 9 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Water shoes suggested for knee deep crossing near end of hike. Bring water and lunch. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: John Howerton, 476-4253.

Tuesday, August 31

SENIOR HIKE: RINCON/POGONIP

Hike from Rincon Parking lot off Hwy. 9 to the Pogonip. About 3 miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Graham Hill Rd. to Felton and then go back towards Santa Cruz on Hwy. 9 until you reach the Rincon Parking Lot on your left. Bring lunch, water, \$3 carpool. Leader: Helena Cantin, 438-4253.



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

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

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



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

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, September 1

HIKE: BERRY CREEK FALLS

We'll start this hike from the parking lot inside Big Basin Redwoods State Park, sharing park entrance fee with carpool mates. This hike is an in-and-out

that follows Kelly Creek to the confluence of Timms Creek, then to West Waddell Creek, and then on to Berry Creek Falls. This trail goes through a very green and lush part of the park with old growth redwoods. 7 1/2 miles, 1300' elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

Thursday, September 2

HIKE: GLEN DEVEN RANCH

Our 7-mile hike with 800' elevation gain takes us into a lovely canyon and along redwood-lined Garapata Creek. After lunch, we will explore a writer's studio and then out onto a ridge for spectacular views. Stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water & lunch. Arrive early; we depart at 9:30 a.m. sharp from Rio Road Park & Ride. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, September 4

HIKE: RUSSIAN RIDGE

This is a MidPen Open Space Preserve on the Santa Cruz Mountains ridge above Pescadero. It also has the distinction of being adjacent to an old and extinct seamount (undersea volcano). 7 miles with 1300' 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.

Wednesday, September 8

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

We'll hike the Wilder Ridge Loop, taking the Zane Gray cut-off. Lunch at overlook on loop trail. Mostly open terrain, rolling grasslands, and a few wooded areas. Ocean vistas, weather permitting, and always a good chance of seeing a few raptors. Bring water and lunch. 7 miles, 600' elevation gain. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

Saturday, September 11

HIKE: ANASTASIA CANYON

The Anastasia Canyon Trail, at the northern end of the Ventana Wilderness, lies beneath a tree canopy and so provides a cooler hike. We will make a loop by continuing further south to Chews Ridge and returning via a road-parallel use trail. Nice views. See a seldom-visited section of the Ventana. A strenuous 9-mile hike with 2800' gain. Bushwhacking required for a recently-cleared 0.4 mile use trail section. Must call leader for meeting time and place. Leader: Jack Glendening, 484-6929.

Saturday, September 11

HIKE: BIG BASIN

The East Ridge Trail in Big Basin is one of the least frequented areas in the park and one of the most beautiful. 7-8 miles with about 1200' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff 462-3101.

Sunday, September 12

HIKE: HUCKLEBERRY HILL

A short but interesting jaunt up to Huckleberry Hill on the east side of Point Lobos. 5 miles with 600' of elevation gain. Bring water, lunch, and optional camera for unique views of Point Lobos. Maybe we'll spot a Gowen Cypress or two along the way. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery next to Savemart in Carmel. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Tuesday, September 14

SENIOR HIKE: POINT LOBOS

The leader's favorite place. We'll park at Whaler's Cove and hike the North Shore Trail, Allen Cypress Grove, then take Sand Hill Trail to Piney Woods for lunch. About 3 miles. Good trails, some moderate uphill. Heavy poison oak. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave or at Whaler's 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.

Friday, September 17

HIKE: PEBBLE BEACH

We'll hike and nibble on a variety of ripe berries through serene pine forests and open meadows of Pebble Beach. Bring water. Lunch gives us the option of purchasing a Poppy Hills sandwich. 6 1/2 miles, 850' elevation gain. 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.

Saturday, September 18

WALK: ASILOMAR/PEBBLE BEACH

This will be a 4-mile loop, starting on neighborhood streets and then thru dunes between fairways, out to Point Joe and back along the beach boardwalk. Quiet neighborhood, beach wildflowers, possible wildlife to be seen. 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.

Sunday, September 19

WALK: LIMEKILN STATE PARK

Hurray! This beautiful walk along Hare and Limekiln Creeks among the redwoods is worth the long wait (closed since the Basin Fire of 2008) and long drive (south of Big Sur village). On a hot summer day it's shady and cool, or on a cool, foggy day it's misty and atmospheric. We'll leave at 9:00 a.m. from the Rio Road Park & Ride with lunch, water, and layered clothing. Trail is well graded, so boots not required. Call leader to make sure she came back from summer adventures. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Wednesday, September 22

SENIOR HIKE: NISENE MARKS

We'll take the Hoffman Loop. A 4-mile shady hike starting at Porter Picnic area, the last parking lot before the 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.



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Wednesday, September 22

HIKE: HENRY COWELL REDWOODS

This hike is along and above the San Lorenzo River, with a nice view of Santa Cruz along the way. Cowell has some very old redwoods and some rare, for this area, Ponderosa Pines. 7 1/2 miles, 800' elevation gain. Bring water and lunch. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

Friday - Sunday, September 24 - 26

WORK PARTY: 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 restoring one of the historic homesteads in the center of the Plain. 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.

Any day you choose

HIKE LEADERS WANTED

Have you ever thought of becoming a hike leader? All levels needed. While it is great to get out and hike with a group, it is also enjoyable to plan and lead hikes. Certainly there are some responsibilities, but there are many rewards.

Sierra Club is seeking additional hike leaders. If you are interested please contact Anneliese Suter, 624-1467 in the Monterey area or George Jammal, george@cruzio.com, 531-2909 in the Santa Cruz area. **Become a hike leader!**

Friday - Sunday, September 24 - 26

CAR CAMP, HIKES: SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

Join Carla Cloer on a weekend outing and educational tour sponsored by the Sierra Club Sequoia Task Force and Tule River Conservancy. Camp at Quaking Aspen about 1 1/2 hours east of Porterville. Saturday night potluck. Contact Carla, 559-781-8445, cac@ocsnet.net by September 15 to reserve a place. Space is limited. See more complete description in article on this page.

Saturday, September 25

HIKE: BONNY DOON PRESERVE

This CA Fish and Game Preserve burned in the summer of 2008. We'll see Mother Nature's fire management methods in this fire-prone area and how plants recover after a couple of years. Expect 5-6 miles with 800' 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 25

CARRIZO TRAIL TO MEMORIAL CAMPGROUND

A car shuttle and very early start is needed for this wonderful all-day hike. Great views of beautiful rock formations, glimpses of the Pacific Ocean, Giant Madrones, and Sugar Pines. The hike includes several Arroyo Seco River crossings. Call leader and leave your information, so your call can be returned. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Saturday, September 25

HIKE: MITTELDORF PRESERVE

Let's try a hike around the Preserve on shady forest roads when it finally gets warm around here. About 8 miles with 800' elevation gain. Bring poles and wear good shoes. Bring water and lunch. Meet in front of the San Carlos Ranch Gate (one mile from Carmel Valley Road on San Carlos Ranch) at 9:00 a.m. For more info, call leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Sunday, September 26

WALK: POINT LOBOS

A 3-mile walk where we might see sea otters, Guillemots and pinnepeds. We will hike to Bird Island via China Cove, then follow the South Shore Trail to Whalers Cabin Museum. Bring lunch, water, binoculars (polar bears bring a swim suit). Meet at the Entrance Station at 11:00 a.m. After the hike, we will go to the famous Rio Grill for happy hour (and possible light meal). Call leader for reservation and carpooling information. Leader: Phyllis Hilton, 372-1714.

Tuesday, September 28

SENIOR HIKE: LEVEE TO WHARF

Casual walk along west side of San Lorenzo levee to Boardwalk. Back along east levee and lunch in park behind Government Center. About 3 miles. Interesting trees, parkland, and houses along the way. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at Gateway Plaza on River St. near levee before 9:50 a.m. Leader: Janet Schwind 425-3845.

Wednesday, September 29

HIKE: FALL CREEK

Fir, oak, and madrone dominate the area. The park is known for its wide variety of ferns. We'll hike up the East Ridge Trail then down the Barrel Mill Cutoff Trail. Lunch at Barrel Mill site. After lunch, we'll hike down beautiful Fall Creek. Bring water and lunch. 6 miles, 1000' elevation gain. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Leader: Tom Davey, 331-8430.

Giant Sequoia National Monument fall camp-out and hike

Friday - Sunday, September 24 - 26

Sponsored by the Sierra Club, Sequoia Task Force and Tule River Conservancy

Join Carla Cloer, Sequoia Task Force Chair, Joe Fontaine, Vice-Chair, Ara Marderosian, Sequoia ForestKeeper and Rich Kangas on a weekend outing featuring a hike in one of the most magnificent Sequoia Groves in the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Meet folks who were instrumental in creating the Monument and who now fight for real protection of these forests. See why these groves need to be reunited with the rest of their ecosystem under the management of Sequoia National Park. And have a fun fall weekend!

We will camp at Quaking Aspen at the headwaters of the South Fork of the Middle Fork of the Tule River about 1 1/2 hours east of Porterville.

Saturday morning: Our downhill hike will begin after a no-host breakfast. We will discuss past and planned future activities in the grove and the latest on the Forest Service's attempt to re-do their Management Plan—just released! Bring lunch to munch at a site by the Tule River.

Saturday afternoon: An optional afternoon trip will be offered to tour the Trail

of 100 Giants, discuss the Forest Service's recent expansion and tree removal projects there, and pay tribute to the unmarked Sequoia where President Clinton created this Giant Sequoia National Monument.

Saturday night: Potluck supper—always a creative and delicious smorgasbord.

Sunday morning: A 2-hour round-trip hike down the Freeman Creek Grove Trail where the Forest Service, with no notice, replaced every stream crossing with wooden bridges and banked the trail for bike speed. We will also see some of the world's most beautiful stands of Sequoia. For those who don't have to rush home, we will conclude the weekend with a short hike to the top of Dome Rock to see an overview of the Kern River and the site of the McNally Fire.

You **must** contact Carla at 559-781-8445 or at cac@ocsnet.net by September 15 to reserve your place as space is limited.

To receive Alerts and Newsletters by mail, send your name and address to "Sequoia Task Force," or "Tule River Conservancy," P.O. Box 723, Porterville CA 93257.

OCTOBER

Saturday, October 2

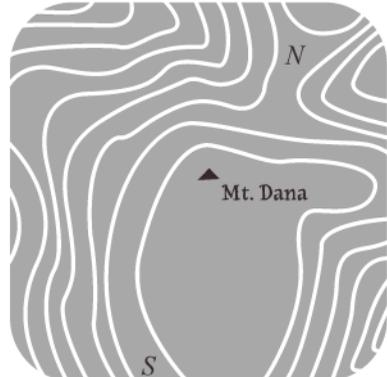
HIKE: JUNIPERO SERRA LOOP

For adventurous and determined hikers only, seeking a unique experience. We will climb iconic Junipero Serra Peak by an off-trail loop route instead of the usual out-and-back trail hike. Starting from an old ranch gravesite, 0.5 miles of light-medium bushwhacking up a steep slope gets us to a relatively brush-free fire/jeep road which we follow up the ridge to Junipero Serra Peak. We'll return first via the usual trail and then to the Indians adobe station to complete the loop. Grand views, including Cone and Pinyon Peaks. A very strenuous, long day-hike leaving Monterey in the very early a.m. and returning after dark. 14 miles with 4600' elevation gain. Must

Friday - Sunday, October 1 - 3

DEATH VALLEY SERVICE TRIP

Wilderness restoration work party in Butte Valley, a beautiful and remote area of the park in the southern Panamint Range. Meet Friday afternoon and drive to work site. High clearance vehicle required. May start work on Friday if time permits. Saturday will be a work day, followed by a potluck supper. Work half a day on Sunday. (Project and location may change.) Bring work gloves, camping equipment, and food and water for the weekend. Leader: Kate Allen, kj.allen@wildblue.net, 661-944-4056.

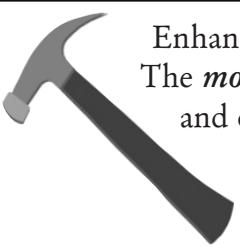


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call leader for meeting time and place. Leader: Jack Glendening, 484-6929.

Thursday, October 7

WALK: MISSION TRAIL CARMEL

We will follow the Old Mission Trail thru shady redwood trees and oaks to end near the Flanders Mansion (a city historical building) with a large Mediterranean garden. Then we'll meander thru streets with quaint Carmel homes ending at Carmel River Beach for lunch. On the way back we may visit the historical native plant garden at the Mission where Father Junipero Serra is buried. 2 1/2 miles, no elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet in the parking lot of Mission San Carlos Borromero on Rio Road at 10:00 a.m. Call for reservation (limited to 9 persons). Leader: Phyllis Hilton, 372-1714.

Thursday, October 7

HIKE: LAND OF MEDICINE BUDDHA

This 6-mile loop with 500' elevation gain includes a lovely redwood forest, a beautiful creek, and stops to enjoy flora & fauna. Bring water. Optional \$10 vegetarian lunch in LMB's dining room. Arrive early; we depart at 8:00 a.m. sharp from Shell station by Home Depot in Seaside or from the back parking lot of the Congregational Church of Soquel at 8:50 a.m. sharp. Call for a reservation. Leader: Lynn Bomberger, 375-7777.

Saturday, October 9

HIKE: TORO COUNTY PARK

We'll do a mild 5 or so miles exploring the boundary with the Marks Ranch which is owned by Big Sur Land Trust on the east side. 1000' elevation gain. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Mar Monte exit off Hwy. 1 north of Watsonville to carpool. Call Nick to find out more details. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, October 9

WALK: MISSION TRAILS PARK

Join me for a 2+ mile uphill walk in Mission Trails Park in Carmel to explore and enjoy wild lands in the middle of Carmel. We will start across from the Carmel Mission on Rio Road and meander uphill and return. We may be on city streets for part of the walk. Bring water and snack. Please call leader for starting time and reservation. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

Sunday, October 10

HIKE: PICO BLANCO

Let's venture up the old Pico Blanco Trail and see how the Little Sur River is doing. Starting at the Little Sur Trail head on the Old Coast Road, we hike down to the stream, across and then up the long ascent and over the shoulder of Pico Blanco and finally down to the Forest Service camp. There we scoot down a short trail to a beautiful pool with a wonderful backwoods waterfall. 11 miles with 1400' of elevation gain. Bring plenty of water and food; sturdy hiking boots are a must. Meet at the Bagel Bakery at 8:30 a.m. to

carpool. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Sunday, October 10

HIKE: SOBERANES CREEK/ROCKY RIDGE

5-mile loop with 1700' elevation gain and remarkable terrain variety. We will follow the Soberanes Creek Trail into a sublime redwood grove, then climb steeply to grassy knolls for a spectacular view at lunch. The descent will be along Rocky Ridge where there should be more great views. The trail is in poor shape, so boots are highly recommended; hiking poles helpful. Bring water and lunch. Call for 9:30 a.m. meeting location. Leader: DJ Goehring, 277-9908.

Tuesday, October 12

SENIOR HIKE: WADDELL CREEK

About a 5-mile hike on tree-lined dirt roads, sun & shade. Some uphill. We'll take the Marsh Trail to the Nature Center for lunch. Prepare for sun/heat/dust/fog, or wind. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 9:50 a.m. at Shen's at Mission & King Sts. Bring lunch, water, \$5 carpool. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Friday, October 15

WALK: SPANISH BAY & POINT PINOS

Meet at 10:00 a.m. outside the Fishwife Restaurant in Pacific Grove, 1996 1/2 Sunset Drive. We'll walk around Spanish Bay in Pebble Beach, then loop back to explore the boardwalk area of Asilomar Conference Grounds. Next we'll walk along coastal paths to Point Pinos looking for shorebirds. Our return will be along the old railroad path. Bring water and lunch, which we'll eat in the leaders' garden towards the end of our walk, or treat yourself to lunch at the Fishwife. Expect an easy walk of 5 or 6 miles with ocean breezes and views. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372 7427.

Saturday - Sunday, October 23 - 24

WORK PARTY: CARRIZO PLAINS

Pronghorn antelope will not jump fences to escape predators but rather attempt to crawl under. Our service on Saturday will either remove or modify

Farr's vision for ocean management realized

Longtime local Congressional Representative Sam Farr's vision for a National Ocean Council came to fruition last month with the unveiling of the Obama administration's National Ocean Policy. The executive order puts in place a science-based ocean policy including improved coordination for ocean resource governance and a structured, regional approach to implementation. The executive order will also authorize a plan for coastal and marine spatial planning.



This policy creates no new law but is a blueprint for existing laws and agencies to work together to approach coastal waters from a broad perspective, figuring out what aquatic activities are appropriate and where. Whether it's oil drilling or generating energy from waves, new activity would have to comply with the spatial plans similar to zoning on land. The planning will be done by nine regional bodies building upon existing state and federal laws and overseen by the National Ocean Council, made up of scientists and top administration officials.



several sections of fence to facilitate this mobility. Sunday will be, at the choice of the group, either a hike in the Caliente Range or else a tour of popular viewing areas in the plains. This is an opportunity to combine car camping, day hiking, exploring, and service in a relatively unknown wilderness. Leader: Craig Deutsche, craig.deutsche@gmail.com, 310-477-6670.

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Water Chair				
	Ken Reiller	990 Hecker Pass Rd.	Watsonville, CA 95076	728-4046

MEETING SCHEDULE	
Ventana Chapter (Monterey County)	Santa Cruz Regional Group
Information: 624-8032	
Executive Committee: First Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place and time	Executive Committee: Second Wednesday of the month; Call 460-1538 for meeting place and time.
Conservation Committee: For dates and times, call 655-8586.	Conservation Committee: Call 761-3263 for meeting dates and times.
	Forestry Task Force: Third Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m.; Call 566-7447 for meeting location.



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