Club honors Sam Farr and Douglas Steakley
p. 4
We share the planet

Since enactment of the Endangered Species Act in 1973, over 1,250 species have been protected nationally—300 in California. Since then, efforts of environmentalists have led to the recovery of frequently-seen local species such as the gray whale, peregrine falcon and brown pelican, making America a world leader in conservation.

Early leaders in our country saw the value of wildlife to our emerging nation. In the nineteenth century, national parks and special wildlife refuges were put aside to conserve habitat and their species. America signed treaties with foreign nations to protect migrating birds.

It’s hard to believe this is the same country, when today special interests control our Congress and the White House. As a result, the Bush administration has weakened many environmental laws. Further, it intends to diminish the impact of the entire structure of environmental protection that has carefully been constructed over the years.

Developers are also flexing their power locally. As growth increases in our coastal communities, the threats to listed animals and plants is greater than ever. Wetlands have been impacted the most. Our state has lost 95% of its wetlands.

Wetlands habitat in Central California sustains such species as the once common California red-legged frog. Now, we have lost 70% of red-legged frog population statewide making the local populations of great significance. While almost all coastal drainages from the San Mateo County line to the city of Santa Cruz support these species, human impacts cause a variety of threats. Projects such as development plans for Luers Barn near Davenport, proposed channeling of the Pajaro River, and construction of a high school by the sloughs of Watsonville could further reduce red-legged frog habitat.

A recovery program has been developed for the red-legged frog. But the program itself may need protection. Last year, the Navy planned to conduct bombing exercises at Fort Hunter Liggett, in the area of an ongoing recovery program for the endangered California Condor. Only a huge public outcry, and the intervention of Representative Sam Farr, prevented this ecological outrage.

A culture of waste

I am embarrassed by our culture of waste. I don’t mean overconsumption; I mean waste. It’s shocking enough that Americans with less than 5% of the world population account for 25% of the world’s energy consumption. Worse, we don’t even use much of these resources. We literally pour them down the drain.

At construction sites I see dumpsters filled with perfectly reusable wood and other materials combined with non-reusable rubble destined for the landfill. And yet we continue to non-sustainably cut down our National Forests and private timber holdings.

One might argue that we need to live more simply and use fewer resources. From my observations, I must conclude that the average person doesn’t yet have the awareness that resources are not mask scarcity. Market forces produce little guidance or education for residents. When we drive more, we are rewarded with new roads and parking garages; current water pricing has little effect on wasteful practices, and planned obsolescence is not taxed but rather considered good for business.

In the 60s I lived in a third world country where everything was used and reused because residents had so little. Water was fetched with time-consuming labor. Old tires were made into sandals, discarded cans were reused or reworked into sheet metal. The lack of resources and planned obsolescence is not taxed but rather considered good for business.

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Environmenatalists’ work pays off for Marks Ranch
Efforts underway to add Marks Ranch to Toro Park

T

wo years of determined effort by the citizens to Save Marks Ranch and by LandWatch Monterey County to prevent development of historic Marks Ranch on the Monterey-Salinas Highway have succeeded. The owner of the property, St. John’s College, has terminated the 28-year option they had with Las Palmas developers, as Michael Fletcher, Sr. and James Fletcher, to subdivide the oak-studded Marks Ranch property. The Fletchers are noted for building on tree-striped terraces.

As reported in The Ventana in 2001 (Vol. 40, No. 3), the Marks Ranch property was in danger of intense development. Herman Marks had willed his homestead to St. John’s College for a college and open space. As such, it was zoned public/quasi-public. Instead, St. John’s decided to sell the property to the developers of the neighboring Las Palmas subdivision. The Fletchers then attempted to have the ranch rezoned to residential.

Citizens to Save Marks Ranch gazetted public support against the rezoning. Chapter member Robin Way provided photo panoramas of the property which showed the oak woodland habitat and adjacent Toro Park (to which Herman Marks had deeded 5,000 acres).

Using the photos, organizers attended meetings and gathered over 3,600 protest signatures which were presented to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors. Reporters covered the story in the local papers. The Ventana Chapter member Harriet Mitldorf wrote a powerful article for the Monterey Herald ensuring the violation of Herman Marks’ will with his environmental intent. Her commentary generated indignant letters to the editor. Two supervisors publicly stated that they would never vote to rezone Marks Ranch.

Even so, for two years there was no response from St. John’s College. Finally on May 8, 2003, a “Memorandum of Termination of Option to Purchase Agreement and Mutual Release” between St. John’s College and the Fletchers was recorded with the Monterey County Recorder. This ends the Fletchers’ attempt to pursue a massive residential development on beautiful Marks Ranch.

Now the hard work begins to fund the purchase of the property. The Big Sur Land Trust and Monterey County are working to add Marks Ranch to Toro Park.
Representative Sam Farr wins National Sierra Club award

Once again Central Coast residents will be recognized by the National Sierra Club at its annual banquet in San Francisco September 20. If you would like to attend the event with other local Chapter members, see the information in the sidebar.

Sam Farr

U. S. Representative Sam Farr has been selected to receive the prestigious Ed-Wayburn Award given for outstanding service to the environment by a person in government. Representative Farr has had an outstanding environmental record in the U. S. Congress culminating in the passage of his Big Sur Wilderness Bill and Conservation Act of 2002. This bill added wilderness protection to 17,000 acres in the Silver Peak Wilderness and 37,000 acres in the Ventana Wilderness both in the Los Padres National Forest as well as some acreage near Pinnacles National Monument.

Locally, in addition to the Wilderness Bill, Farr responded to protests from environmentalists and stopped the Navy bombing exercises planned for Fort Hunter Liggett. He has also been an unwavering proponent of affordable housing on Fort Ord, a previous army base now under conversion. Affordable housing lessens sprawl especially in areas like Monterey County which is fighting to save its rich agricultural lands from development.

Nationally, Farr has furthered the environmental cause by increasing appropriations for the national marine sanctuary system as well as designating a portion of those increases for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Farr also introduced legislation to prevent over-fishing of limited or dwindling fish stocks.

While on the Agricultural Committee, Representative Farr was responsible for originally proposing legislation (93rd Congress) on conserving agricultural land from urban sprawl. He has continued his commitment to this issue by protecting or increasing appropriations for the program. Farr has also secured funding for the first federal organic research position in the nation. When the Chapter submitted its nomination to the Awards Committee, we received several testimonials from Sierra Club members regarding Sam Farr's environmental achievements:

Vicky Hoover, Chair of the California/Nevada Wilderness Committee:

"The Big Sur Wilderness bill would never have passed in this administration without Sam Farr seizing an unexpected opportune moment and giving it his all..."

Ventana Wilderness Alliance board member Gordon Johnson:

"We are all indebted to Congressman Sam Farr for having the vision to preserve these lands for future generations and also for having the political skill to bring together the necessary bipartisan support in Congress to turn that vision into law."

Douglas Steakley

Douglas Steakley has been selected as the 2003 winner of the Sierra Club Ansel Adams Award for photography which furthers the cause of conservation. Many in Monterey County are familiar with Steakley’s stunning images of our local landscape which have been featured in a variety of magazines, calendars and other publications.

Five years ago, Doug teamed up with The Big Sur Land Trust to capture the incredible beauty of the lands being preserved by the Trust. Since their relationship began, Steakley has donated thousands of images of the protected properties to the Land Trust for use. In addition to the generous donation of his images, Doug was also the driving force behind the publication of Big Sur and Beyond, The Legacy of The Big Sur Land Trust, a hardcover coffee table book featuring his spectacular photography of the Trust’s conserved properties. During the two years of working on the book, Steakley donated all of his time, expertise and expenses.

More recently Steakley has also been contributing his photography to other conservation groups including national organizations such as Land Trust Alliance, The Nature Conservancy and Trust for Public Land.

In addition his photography of Monterey County, Steakley is an avid photographer of Yosemite and Mexico. His first book of photography was Pacific Light, published in 2002.

Sierra Club Awards Banquet

Reserve your place now! Saturday September 20, 6:00 p.m. Crowne Plaza Hotel 480 Sutter Street, San Francisco For more information check the Chapter website, www.ventana.sierraclub.org. Contact Rita Dallesio. 659-7246

Douglas Steakley's stunning image of Rocky Point captures the beauty of Big Sur.
State Parks recommends approval for inadequate Nisene Marks Plan

Public comments ignored regarding Marks’ will

The California Department of State Parks is recommending approval of a seriously-flawed Preliminary General Plan/Draft EIR for the Forest of Nisene Marks. This plan goes before the State Parks and Recreation Commission on August 22 in San Jose.

The Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club has submitted comments to the Commission regarding the inadequacy of the Draft Plan. The level of analysis in the plan is insufficient to determine the impact of designated uses and development on habitats and species within the park.

The plan contains no comprehensive biological inventory of the park. Without such an inventory, it is impossible to determine the need for special designations such as natural preserves. There is no modern carrying capacity analysis nor cumulative impacts analysis for expansion of visitor facilities and use of trails by bikes. This results in a piecemeal or segmented plan which State Parks is calling a “Tiered Plan.” Segmented plans violate the California Environmental Quality Act and are used by developers to install more than would be allowed if the projects were presented at the same time.

**Trail plan omitted**

The Draft Plan does not include a trail plan in an obvious attempt to avoid the issue of whether mountain bikes would be allowed on trails above the steel bridge. A trail plan should be included and should be science-based with consideration of impacts on soil erosion, and sensitive habitat and species. The intention of the Marks Family to keep the property in a natural state should be honored.

During public hearings in 2001 and 2002, there was considerable public input asking that Nisene Marks remain peaceful, safe for hikers and free of mechanical transport. The Marks deed specifies that the Forest of Nisene Marks be “preserved as a natural preserve” and be used for “camping, nature study, hiking and associated activities.” State Parks should honor that deed.

Copies of the Preliminary General Plan/DEIR are available for review at: State Parks Santa Cruz District Office, Aptos Public Library, Santa Cruz City Library, and on the internet at www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id = 21501.

**How to help**

- **Attend the Park and Recreation Commission Hearing in San Jose, on August 22.** Contact Sandy Henn, ixnaa@akol.com or 662-2843 for carpool information.
- **Attend the tour of Nisene Marks** with the Park and Recreation Commission on August 21. Contact Louis Nastro, LNastro@parks.ca.gov or (916) 653-0324 for information regarding the tour. If you cannot attend the entire tour which includes other parks, ask what time the tour will arrive at Nisene Marks and join it there. It will be important to attend this tour in order to hear what State Parks is telling the Commissioners.
- **Send written comments** with your concerns regarding the Preliminary General Plan/DEIR to Ruth Coleman, Secretary, State Park and Recreation Commission.

**Cheney loses appeal**

In a victory for the rule of law and the public’s right to know, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals denied the Bush Administration’s request to overturn a lower court ruling requiring the Administration to produce information about the secret meetings of the Cheney Energy Task Force.

The Bush Administration did not appeal the lower court’s decision, “discovery,” and must comply with requests for information from Sierra Club and Judicial Watch. These groups are suing the Administration to shed light on how much influence polluting industries had over the Administration’s de facto energy policy that is the basis for the disastrous energy bill currently before Congress. In rejecting the government’s arguments, the Court noted that the Administration’s position would “transform executive privilege from a doctrine designed to protect presidential communications into virtual immunity from suit.”

“The public is one step closer to finding out how much influence polluting industries had on the nation’s energy policy,” said Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club. Every American deserves a safe, clean, and affordable energy future.

Fortunately, the technologies exist to get us there. But the Bush Administration and Congressional leadership are taking us down the wrong path with a destructive, expensive, and polluting energy bill. Much of the bill stems from the Bush Administration’s Energy Task Force plan.

The Club is suing Vice President Cheney and the Energy Task Force under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, seeking an accounting of energy industry participation in crafting the Bush Administration’s destructive energy policy, which relies on subsidies to polluting and outdated fossil fuel industries. The District Court ordered the Administration to provide information about participation from these industries, which the Bush Administration refused to do, claiming Constitutional immunity from such inquiries. The District Court rejected that contention, pointing out that the Administration was attempting to “cloak what is tantamount to an agrandizement of Executive power with the legitimacy of precedent where none exists.” The Administration appealed, asking the D.C. Circuit to make new law that would effectively shield it from any legal scrutiny. The Circuit Court denied their request.

**Illegal bike trails erode soil in the Forest of Nisene Marks State Park.**

Commission. P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0021, FAX (916) 653-4458. Ask that a comprehensive biological inventory be conducted and that proposed uses be based on protecting threatened and endangered species and sensitive habitat revealed by this inventory. Ask that a trail use plan be included and that trail uses be based on protecting biological resources. And remind the Parks Commissioners that Herman and Andrew Marks specified in the deed that the property “be preserved for all time as a natural preserve,” and that “the property shall be held in its natural state . . . limited to camping, nature study, hiking and associated activities.”
**Tuesday, August 25**

**Water Quality Protest - Sacramento**

Sierra Club is participating in a large protest with other environmental organizations in Sacramento at the State Water Resources Control Board. Our intent is to demonstrate the serious decline of California water quality and the need for the State Water Board to step up to bat and hold the timber industry accountable for sediment discharges. To carpool call Jodi Frediani, 426-1697.

**Activist search**

We’re looking for a few good activists

Are you, or do you know, an activist who can make a difference by serving on the Chapter or Group Executive Committee? Candidates must have a proven record of interest/involvement in environmental issues and have time to meet monthly and work on issues.

Call a member of the nominating committee. Don’t delay.

**Nominating Committee Members**

**Ventana Chapter**

Terry Hallock 625-1477
John Dahlen 659-7046
Rod Mills 659-3748

**Santa Cruz Group:**

Betsy Herbert 423-2279
George Jammal 335-7748
Marilyn Hummel 426-7352
Marilyn Favel 485-1959

**Friday, August 22**

**Singles Potluck and Games**

Friday evening potlucks are a great way to begin the weekend, and provide an opportunity to work out weekend plans with others. 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value $4) are great too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

**Monday, August 25**

**Lobby Day**

Come to Sacramento and lobby members of the State Legislature. Political training and work on issues and have time to meet monthly. For more info. call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

**Tuesday, August 26**

**Potluck - Astronomy**

Dr. Wm. Bruce Weaver, Director of the Monterey Institute for Research in Astronomy, will speak on characterizing in Monterey County—one of the few remaining sites in the U.S. with conditions suitable for high resolution astrometrical imaging. The growing light pollution in the county threatens astronomical research, wastes energy, and deprives residents of their heritage of the wonder of the night sky. This problem can be solved if addressed promptly.

Bring food to share for 8 and your own plate and utensils. Drinks available. Carmel, 6:15 p.m. Turn east at Hwy. 1 and Rio Road; turn south at the last stop light at Carmel Center Plaza; park in the lighted area behind the Safeway and enter the side entrance of the mall. For more info. call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

**Saturday/Sunday, September 6-7**

**State Conservation Meeting**

Keynote speaker Kevin Hall will talk about cleaning up the San Joaquin Valley’s air. Attend this meeting near San Luis Obispo or get involved in conservation at the state level. Call Patricia Matteick for information, 423-8567.

**Friday, September 12**

**Potluck - Yellowstone**

This slide show is from George & Judy’s trip to Yellowstone. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value $4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

**Tuesday, September 23**

**Potluck - TBA**

Call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

**Friday, September 26**

**Singles Potluck and Games**

See August 22 for details.

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**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.

**Wednesday, August 13**

**Save PG tidepools**

The Coalition to Preserve and Restore Pt. Pinos Tidepools will hold a protest demonstration at the Fish and Game Office, 20 Lower Ragsdale Ave. at Ryan Ranch, Monterey, 1:30 p.m. Estimated duration, one hour. Bring homemade protest signs if you can. Call 372-5123 for more information.

**Sunday, August 17**

**Worm composting - Quail Hollow**

Learn how worms can eat your garbage and make beautiful compost for your garden! Join us for a workshop on how to compost food scraps with worms. FREE. 1:00 p.m. If you wish, you may set up a worm bin to take home ($15 materials fee). Call to reserve materials, 427-3452. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and Quail Hollow Ranch County Park. For more information, contact: Karin Grobe, 427-3452.

**Tuesday, August 26**

**Sustainable food tasting**

Sample a wide variety of local, farm-fresh food prepared and presented by chefs from Santa Cruz’s finest restaurants. Live music and contra dancing. Sponsored by New Leaf Community Markets. A collaborative effort of Sustainable Agriculture Culture Working Group, Community Alliance with Family Farmers, and the Coalition for Communities to 5:00 p.m. Santana Cruz between Cathcart and Lincoln Streets. Call 469-9204 x 3.

**Saturday, September 27**

**Worm composting - Watsonville**

FREE. See Aug. 17 for details. Sponsored by Santa Cruz Co. Board of Supervisors and Sierra Azul Nursery-Garden, 2660 East Lake Ave., Watsonville.

**Rideshare week**

Link up with others and try not to drive alone. It might become a habit. The air and people’s lungs will thank you. In Monterey call 422-POOL; in Santa Cruz call 429-POOL.

**Saturdays (see dates below)**

**Habitat restoration — California Native Plant Society**

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz County. Wear comfortable layered work clothing. 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. Call Linda Brodum, 462-4041 for more information. Email: redbudl@pacbell.net. website: www.crzcnps.org.

August 9, Sat. - Sunset Beach State Park
August 23, Sat. - Sunset Beach State Park
Sept. 6, Sat. - Natural Bridges State Park
Sept. 20, Sat. - Sunset Beach State Park

**Garland Ranch hikes**

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District departments lead hikes at Garland Ranch Park every Saturday and invite Sierra Club members to join them. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprpd.org.
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 his/her guests. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club; the driver and the Sierra Club is responsible for the safety of guests while carpooling.
GLS = Gay & Lesbian Sierrans. All are welcome on GLS outings.

EXPLANATION OF RATINGS:
The outings described vary in difficulty from leisurely walks to strenuous hikes. The following explanation are general guidelines. (For more information about the difficulty of a particular hike, call the leader):
Walk: Between 2-5 miles, leisurely pace.
Easy: No more than 5 miles a day; slight elevation gain; easy pace.
Moderate: 5-10 miles a day; up to 2,000 ft. elevation gain; 1 to 2 1/2 mph; boots, better than average fitness required.
Strenuous: Distance variable; may involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

MEETING PLACES

Big Sur Land Trust Parking Lot
Via Nona Marie, Carmel. From Hwy. 1, heading south on Carmel, turn left on Rio Road, then on Via Nona Marie, then left into the parking lot behind Monterey County Bank, opposite the Post Office.

Alberson’s: Heading south on Hwy. 1, pass through Monterey. One mile past the Ocean Ave. intersection, turn left on Carmel Valley Road (Hwy. G-16), toward Carmel Valley. Go approximately 2.1 mile and then turn right at the light toward the shopping centers. Alberson’s is on the right.

Santa Cruz County Govt. Center: This is the large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water Streets in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot that is nearest to the gas station.

Felton Faire: From Santa Cruz take Graham Hill Rd. toward Felton. Just after you pass Roaring Camp (on the left), make a right into Felton Faire shopping center. We meet at the edge of the parking lot nearest Graham Hill Rd.

417 Cedar St., Santa Cruz 831-458-WELL.

Tuesday, August 19

SENIOR SAUNTER: MANZANITA PARK
This is a NEW hike for us. Moderate, hilly 3+ mile hike in North Monterey Co. See the ocean and Fremont Peak on a clear day. Lunch at picnic tables. Bring hat, sunblock and windbreaker. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King next to Shen’s just before 10:00 a.m. Leader: Beverly Moschi, 662-2434.

Sunday, August 10

HIKE: WEST MOLERA
Hike up Hidden Trail and Ridge Trail, enjoying views of Pico Blanco and Post Summit. After lunch we descend via the Panorama and Bluff Trails with views of the ocean (Elev 700). Bring lunch, water, and a windbreaker. Meet behind Brunnin at 9:30 a.m. for this moderately strenuous 8-mile hike with 1200’ elevation gain. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dantzer, 372 7427.

Monday, August 11

HIKE: DEL MONTE FOREST
We’ll hike for about 2 hours through beautiful Del Monte Forest. 4 miles with a few hundred feet elevation gain. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Meet at the following place: from Hwy. 1, take the Pacific Grove exit Hwy, 68 west, drive 1.5 miles. Pay attention after the overpass of a Pebble Beach road when you can see the ocean in the west, turn out on the left side of the road and park. We’ll meet at 6:00 p.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Tuesday, August 16

HIKE: BIG BASS
Surprise walk depending on weather. Call for details. 9 miles with 2,000’ elevation gain. Sun and shade, so bring layers. Wear boots, bring lunch and water. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 662-3121.

Sunday, August 24

SINGLES BOATING/VEGETARIAN-POTLUCK
Potluck supper at 4:00 p.m. then we’ll go boating, or you may hike or socialize. (No swimming or alcohol allowed in the park.) You may bring your own boat or we may rent row or paddle boats for about $1/ person/per hour. Free parking after 4:00 p.m. To carpool, meet at 3:15 p.m. at Felton Faire or meet at Loch Lomond at 4:00 p.m. Bring your own plate, cup and serving utensils and a potluck dish to share. For more info, call after 11:00 a.m. 335-5342. Leader: Karen Kaplan.
O U T I N G S

Sunday, August 24
WALK: CARMEL/MONTEREY BEACHES
Easy 5-miles along the shore. Maybe on Carmel State Beach or a little further north to the dunes of Del Monte Beach. Dress for the weather and bring water and lunch. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Harry Rockey, 625-7602.

Tuesday, August 26
SENIOR SAUNTER: FELTON ADVENTURE
This flat, 2-mile hike through redwoods at Henry Cowell will end at the picnic area in Roaring Camp. Good bathrooms, good paths, and lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Felton Fare at 9:50 a.m. Leader: Maureen Maynard, 336-5293.

Friday, August 29 - Monday, September 1
39TH ANNUAL LABOR DAY WEEKEND AT TAHOE
We have 3 family sites at D. L. Bliss State Park. Swim or walk on the beach. Hikes into beautiful hike on the Pine Ridge Trail with great views, ferns, and redwood canyons. 2,200’ elevation gain, strenuous 10 miles. Wear boots, bring water and lunch, meet at the Ragel Bakery at 8:20 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042 or suzannecarml@aol.com.

Saturday, August 30
HIKE: TERRACE CREEK
Beautiful hike on the Pine Ridge Trail with great views, ferns, and redwood canyons. 2,200’ elevation gain, strenuous 10 miles. Wear boots, bring water and lunch, meet at the Ragel Bakery at 8:20 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042 or suzannecarml@aol.com.

September 3
HIKE: POCONIP
Join Friends of the Pongonip for their 3-hour monthly Saturday morning walk on the Pongonip. We may discuss a recent revival of a proposed access route to the university across the Pongonip Greenbelt land. Meet at the top (north end) of Spring Street in Santa Cruz at 9:30 a.m. Call leaders Celio or Peter Scott at 425-0796 if you have questions.

Sunday, August 31
WALK: CARMEL/MONTEREY BEACHES
See August 24 for details.

S E P T E M B E R

Tuesday, September 2
SENIOR SAUNTER: WILDER RANCH
Enjoy the ocean breezes along the bluffs in this historic old dairy ranch. We’ll see the Fern Grotto and probably walk farther to learn more about the Coast Dairies property. A pleasant, flat 3-4 miles. Bring lunch, water, a hat and sunscreen. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King next to Shen’s just before 10:00 a.m. $2 carpool fee. Leader: Joan Beelmer, 462-3803.

Saturday, September 6
WALK: POINT LOBOS
A nearly level walk around Point Lobos. 4 miles. We’ll see beaches and sandstone formations, birds and high pine trees. Bring a windbreaker, water, and a snack. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Martha Taylor, 372-9215.

Saturday, September 6
HIKE: WILDER RANCH
We’ll explore the stunning park of the part, 9 miles with 1,500’ elevation gain. Wear boots; bring lunch and water. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-5301.

Sunday, September 7
HIKE: WEST MOLERA
We’ll take the Hidden Trail, Ridge Trail, Panorama Trail and Bluff Trail. Great views of the Big Sur Coast. Strenuous 8 miles, 1200’ elevation gain. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Steve Leguard, 422-1422.

Tuesday, September 9
SENIOR SAUNTER: NISENE MARKS
A mostly shady, 4-mile hike. We start at the Porter Family Picnic area, and then head down the road, going left on the Loma Prieta Grade. At the Porter House we’ll head up the hill on the Bridge Creek Trail to the dry waterfall. Lunch back at the Porter Family picnic area. Bring lunch, water and wear layered clothing. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave, or just before 10:00 a.m. at Porter Family parking lot. Carpool $1 each and riders will share in the entrance fee. Leader: Mary Gabel, 636-3307.

Friday, September 12
BIKE RIDE: PACIFIC GROVE TO MARINA
Explore the new links in the Coastal Trail through Monterey and Sand City and see how they connect with the Rec. Trail and the old Fort Ord bike path. Meet at Lovers Point in Pacific Grove at 10:00 a.m., at the start of the rec. trail. Our route will be mostly on a paved bike trail, with some street riding. Relatively flat with a few short hills. 30 miles at a leisurely pace. Helmets mandatory. Bring water and lunch to eat at a park in Marina. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-4277.

Saturday, September 13
WALK: RANCHO SAN CARLOS
Walk a special chance to see the best of this beautiful 30,000 acre ranch. A Santa Lucia Conservancy docent will guide us on a 4-mile saunter through oak woodlands, rolling grasslands and riparian corridors. We could see wild boar, deer, bobcats, raptors and wild miles. We’ll see beaches and sandstone formations, birds and high pine trees. Bring a windbreaker, water, and a snack. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:00 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Martha Taylor, 372-9215.

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Saturday, September 27
HIKE/FALL CREEK
Explore this enchanted forest with redwoods, a lovely bubbling stream full of cascades, a lime kiln, barrel mill, fish pond, and dancing springs. 7 miles. Bring water and a snack. Meet at Felton Fair at 12:00 p.m. to carpool. Leader: Sheila Dunnaway, 336-3235.

Saturday, September 27
HIKE/RIVER WALK/HENRY COWELL
We’ll wade across the San Lorenzo River a few times and stop at the Observation Deck. Be prepared to take off your boots. An extra pair of sandals is a good idea. We may hike or wade in the river for up to half a mile. We recommend you wear a swimsuit and have dry clothes and a towel in the car. 6 miles and 16/20’ elevation gain. Bring a snack, water, and wearing boots. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 11:30 a.m. or at the Rincon parking lot on Hwy. 9. 9.5 miles south of the park’s main entrance at 12:00 noon. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Saturday, September 27
HIKE: SAN JOSE CREEK
A new kind of Sierra Club adventure. Easy 2-mile hike on Big Sur Land Trust land at Point Lobos Ranch. For increased sensual awareness, we walk slowly in, sharing our observations. Our return is in silence, with time for personal reflection. Bring water, snack, and sense of openness to new possibilities. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Albion’s. Leader: Marilyn Beck, 372-6860 or outbeck@juno.com.

Saturday, September 27
HIKE: GARLAND RANCH
Moderately strenuous. About 7 miles round trip. Lunch at the Redwood Canyon. Bring hat, water, and lunch. Meet at Albertson’s at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, e-mail andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Sunday, September 21
HIKE: FALL CREEK
Explore this enchanted forest with redwoods, a lovely bubbling stream full of cascades, a lime kiln, barrel mill, fish pond, and dancing springs. 7 miles. Bring water and a snack. Meet at Felton Fair at 12:00 p.m. to carpool. Leader: Sheila Dunnaway, 336-3235.

Sunday, September 27
HIKE: WEST MOLERA LOOP
Moderately strenuous 3-mile hike with wonderful coastal views. 1100’ elevation gain. Trail is somewhat overgrown. Bring water, lunch, and water and wear boots. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 421-4422 or bruinrn@msn.com.

Sunday, September 23
SENIOR SAUNTER: FALL SAUNTER
Shady, delightful 3-mile hike in the redwood forest, beside a rushing creek. Some moderate uphill and rocky trail in places. Lunch at the limekiln. Wear hiking shoes; bring lunch and water. Meet at Sear’s 41st Ave. at 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King next to Shem’s just before 10:30 a.m. $2 carpool fee. Leaders: Bob and Peggy Mitchell, 426-5374.

Saturday, September 20
BEACH WALK: SALINAS RIVER
Surf’s up. Let’s hit the beach and find sand somewhere between Marina and Crescent City, probably at the Salinas River wildlife area. Meet at 10:00 a.m. in the Seaside K-Mart near the gas station. Bring water, lunch, wind-breaker, and plan to be back in town by mid-afternoon. Leader: Mary Gale, 422-6970.

Saturday, September 21
HIKE: JACKS PEAK
Two-hour evening hike. Bring water and a snack, wear a jacket and sturdy shoes. Meet at Foothill Elementary School, 3700 Via Loscaldi and Olmstead Road at 6:00 p.m. Call for more information. Leader: Diane Salomone, 421-4422 or bruinrn@msn.com.

Tuesday, September 16
SENIOR SAUNTER: FREMONT PEAK
Two hike options: One is easy to moderate, circling the towers on Fremont Peak. The second, led at the same time, is 4 miles with some shade and some sun, with some hills to climb. We’ll all meet and have lunch in the same area. Bring water, lunch and $3 for carpool, plus your share of park entrance fee. Leader: Mary Gabel, 636-3577.

Tuesday, September 30
SENIOR SAUNTER: MT. MADONNA
This Santa Clara County Park is located high above Watsonville, on Hwy. 152. There are lovely woods, views and meadows along this 2.5-mile hike. Optional return home via Gashich Farms. Bring lunch, water, sun-screen, light jacket, “pay morter,” and $3 for carpool. Meet at 9:30 a.m. at Sear’s 41st Ave. or just beyond the park’s kiosk entrance about 10:05 a.m. by the restrooms. Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.
WINTER CARETAKER NEEDED
Kit Carson Lodge, on Hwy. 88 at Silver Lake, has an opening for a caretaker (could be a couple) for all or even part of the coming winter. The Lodge is closed except for one other cottage. Spectacular lakeside or backcountry skiing and snowshoeing right outside the door of your own cozy cottage. Five miles from Kirkwood’s groomed tracks and downhill slopes. Treat yourself to an incredible winter in the High Sierra. (209) 258-8500.

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Call (415) 977-5522, or national.outings@sierraclub.org for more information, or to make reservations.

Sierra Club national outing to Kauai

Saturday, October 11 - Monday, October 13

A Land Called Hanalei, Kauai. For more trip number 03063A to learn more about this Sierra Club national outing to Kauai.

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Chapter members lead national outing to Kauai October 5-13

B asted on last year’s success, Carolyn & Joe Braun, Ventana Chapter members, are repeating the Sierra Club national outing to Kauai. Day hikes, kayaking, snorkeling, bird watching, and beach walking/clean-up provide a variety of options for this easy trip. Our home for the week is a large, comfortable plantation-era beach house on Hanalei Bay. Awake to the sun rising over palms; take a pre-breakfast stroll on the deserted beach and relax with a gourmet home-cooked meal after the day’s adventures.

If this sounds good to you, visit the Sierra Club outings online at www.sierraclub.org/outings. Enter a search for "Kauai" to find the trip number 03063A to learn more about this Sierra Club national outing to Kauai.

Send a check for $7.50 for a subscription to Sierra magazine and $1.00 for your Chapter newsletter. Contributions, gifts and dues to the Sierra Club are not tax deductible; they support our effective, citizen-based advocacy and lobbying efforts. Your dues are used to support Sierra Club staff, publications, and $1.00 for your Chapter newsletter.

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Poor logging practices impair Santa Cruz creeks

Come to the Water Board hearing September 12 in Salinas

by Jodi Frediani

If you’ve taken a hike lately along the San Lorenzo River or any Santa Cruz creek, you’ve probably noticed the sediment lining the creek or river bottom. Or last winter, perhaps you saw how our rivers and streams ran brown during heavier storms. This sediment is not all natural. Much of it comes from bleeding roads. Many of those are logging roads. In addition to sediment washing off the road and skid trail surfaces, failed culverts, landslides and bank failures resulting from timber harvest activities have played a contributing part to this excessive sediment in our watercourses. In Santa Cruz County most streams have been listed as impaired for sediment under the Clean Water Act. Such sediment is detrimental to fish.

Steelhead and coho salmon in the Central Coast Range south of San Francisco Bay are federally listed as “Threatened” species, and the coho are listed by the state as “Endangered” and “Threatened.” They face especially low summer baseflow, warm summer temperatures, and highly sedimented streambeds resulting from highly erodible soils. If additional fine sediment enters streams from eroding timber harvest sites during the important spring feeding period for salmonids, turbidity increases and feeding is greatly reduced because the fish must visually locate drifting insects to feed upon. The sediment also covers the cobbles where they lay their eggs, making reproduction difficult.

Our drinking water is also at risk. When turbidity levels are too high, water purveyors cannot take surface water from the rivers and streams. Filtration plants are shut down until the water runs clear again.

For years, the timber industry has been exempted from waste discharge permits. On January 1, 2003, the existing waivers for waste discharge permits expired. Since then, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board has been issuing individual waivers for each timber harvest plan approved by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. The Sierra Club believes strongly that the Regional Water Board should require waste discharge permits rather than issuing waivers.

The Sierra Club believes that the Regional Water Board should require waste discharge permits rather than issuing waivers.

On July 17, the Santa Cruz Group, in conjunction with Citizens for Responsible Forest Management and the Lompico Watershed Conservancy, submitted a proposal to the Water Board spelling out the need for and content of waste discharge permits for logging operations.

Attend the hearing

The Water Board is holding a hearing on this proposal Friday, Sept. 12 in Salinas. It is critical that we make a good showing at the hearing and support this well-thought-out, scientifically-designed proposal to protect our water supplies, our watersheds and our struggling fish populations. Please attend. To carpool or for more information contact Jodi Frediani, jodifred@iol.com, 426-1697.

An educational slide show is being prepared for an evening in early September before the hearing date. This issue will be discussed on EcoReview on Channel 27 Community Access Television on August 19, 6:00 p.m.

The Sierra Club joins other environmental groups to mobilize voters

The Sierra Club is joining forces with America’s other largest grass-roots groups under the umbrella of America Votes to register, educate and mobilize the public for the 2004 elections. America Votes is a non-partisan political organization.

America Votes will combine resources, research, and strategy to develop highly targeted methods to reach out to voters on issues that they care deeply about to encourage greater voter participation. This historic partnership joins together ACORN, AFL-CIO, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), EMILY’s List, League of Conservation Voters, MoveOn.org, NARAL National Voter Fund, NARAL Pro-Choice America, Partnership for America’s Families, People For the American Way, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), and the Sierra Club.

Cecile Richards, veteran labor and political organizer, has been elected President of America Votes. Richards has worked as a labor and political activist for more than 20 years. She recently led a national program for the Turner Foundation to educate and organize reproductive choice supporters across the country. Before coming to America Votes, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi.

America Votes represents nearly 17 million Americans from every state in the country.

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The Sierra Club / Ventana Chapter Volume 42 Number 4, 2003

11
Local members urged to join Club Coastal Campaign

Representatives from the Sierra Club’s Great Coastal Places Campaign met with local members in both Santa Cruz and Monterey this summer. On June 24 Elizabeth Lambe and Owen Bailey spoke to a crowd of over 50 Santa Cruz members at the Louden Nelson Center. In Monterey on July 14, Mark Massara and Owen Bailey updated Monterey members about the phenomenal progress of this two-year-old Sierra Club program. This campaign now has over 5,000 members participating in monthly California Coastal Commission hearings and playing a crucial role in coastal protection.

Both presentations described the work of the Coastal Commission and many victories and threats to our spectacular California Coast. In spite of some important successes in the last 25 years, there are still a lot of threats to habitat and a constant barrage of proposals to build mega mansions, seawalls and giant housing and commercial developments along the coast.

Many local areas are under pressure of development which would destroy habitat for listed and endangered plant and animal species such as nesting raptors, blue butterfly, Dune gilia and Monterey spineflower.

The staff of the Great Coastal Places Campaign is committed to encouraging the Coastal Commission to take a proactive role in protecting the coast. Some steps Great Coastal Places Campaign would like to see instituted by the Coastal Commission are:

- Mandated periodic reviews of Local Coastal Plans (LCP) with penalties for noncompliance as outdated LCP’s serve only developers and speculators. Failure to comply would result in sanctions.
- An increase in coastal development fees with a portion going to assist communities to update their LCP’s.
- An amendment to the Coastal Act that would specify that the review standards for appeals be based on Commission modifications.

Join in

The fine work of the Great Coastal Places campaign should attract all members who cherish and love the coast. For more information about how you can get involved, visit www.sierraclub.org/coast/coasts.

Recycle your cell phone

Sierra Club, Staples and CollectiveGood, a mobile electronics recycling company, have teamed up to make it easy to recycle your used cell phone, PDA or pager. Recycling mobile electronics prevents hazardous elements such as mercury, cadmium and lead from contaminating the earth through landfill disposal or incineration. Just drop off your old electronic phones, PDAs and pagers at any Staples store in the cell phone department. Just don’t drive and talk on the phone with your new one!

And your old computer

If you live in Santa Cruz County you can get a fact sheet about computer recycling opportunities from Jeffrey Smedberg, Recycling Programs Coordinator, recycle@co.santacruz.ca.us, or 454-2373.

Tired of driving to work?

Have more free time by vanpooling. Save money and meet new people on your commute. New riders receive a discount. If you start a new Santa Cruz vanpool, you receive $1,000. For more information on how to vanpool for Santa Cruz County residents, call 429-POOL or visit www.CommuteSolutions.org. For Monterey residents, visit www.ambag.org/sharing.html or call 422-POOL.

Environmental Caucus

Are you a Democrat? If so, you might want to check out the website of the party’s Environmental Caucus: www.environmentalcaucus.org.

Airport expansion grounded

In July the San Francisco Airport threw in the towel in its attempt to fill part of San Francisco Bay to expand its runways. Part of the reason for the decision was the opposition of environmentalists. If voters elect to fund a high-speed rail connection to Southern California, more flights could be replaced by train trips in the future, further decreasing the need to expand the airport.

Blowin’ in the wind

Both Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties received an A in air quality from the American Lung Association. But 28 California counties got an F. EarthJustice reports that children in Fresno suffer from asthma at three times the national rate. So consider if there is an alternative before you drive somewhere alone, our pollution blows east. Check the scores at www.lungusa.org/local/caindex.html.

For the birds

In a work of pure deceit, developers are using the Audubon name to greenwash golf courses and sprawl. The “Audubon” Society has no connection with the National Audubon Society. The National Audubon Society has no connection with this dishonest group which claims to “certify” golf courses.

The Bird Feeder

A Birder’s Emporium

Everything for the wild bird enthusiast including bird feeders, houses, baths, field guides, bird books, videos, cassette, t-shirts, posters, binoculars, note cards, seeds, and more.

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Sun. 11:00 - 4:00

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If you live in Santa Cruz County you can get a fact sheet about computer recycling opportunities from Jeffrey Smedberg, Recycling Programs Coordinator, recycle@co.santacruz.ca.us, or 454-2373.

Tired of driving to work?

Have more free time by vanpooling. Save money and meet new people on your commute. New riders receive a discount. If you start a new Santa Cruz vanpool, you receive $1,000. For more information on how to vanpool for Santa Cruz County residents, call 429-POOL or visit www.Commut
Club provides Army Corps with new alternatives for Pajaro River

by Patricia Matejcek and Lois Robin

The Pajaro River valley is an important resource for the Sierra Club. The Club has been advocating for the protection of the river and its watershed for many years. In the past, the Club has worked closely with the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that any projects proposed for the river would not harm its natural function as a riparian corridor.

Recently, the Club provided new alternatives to the Corps for the Pajaro River, which is a major tributary of the Santa Cruz River. These alternatives were developed in response to the Corps' proposed dredging and channelization project, which would have had significant negative impacts on the river's ecosystem.

The Club's new alternatives include a variety of options for managing the river, such as upstream retention, floodwalls, and other measures that would help to restore the river's natural function. These options were developed in consultation with local experts and community members, and they are expected to be more effective and less costly than the Corps' proposed project.

The Club's efforts to protect the Pajaro River are part of its ongoing commitment to preserving the natural resources of the Sierra Nevada. The Club has long been a leader in conservation efforts in the region, and it continues to work closely with local stakeholders to ensure that the needs of the river and its ecosystem are met.

In addition to its work on the Pajaro River, the Club is also involved in a number of other conservation efforts throughout California and Nevada. These efforts include protecting the air quality in the Central Valley, conserving the air quality in San Benito County, and restoring riparian habitats in the Pajaro River Valley.

The Club's work is supported by its members, who are committed to protecting the natural resources of the Sierra Nevada and ensuring a healthy and vibrant future for the region.

Humanism: Systems of thought stressing rational inquiry & human experience over abstract theology or orthodox religion. Humanist beliefs stress the potential value of goodness of human beings and seek solely rational ways of solving human problems. If interested, please contact HAMEA, the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Humanist Association, anneh@redshift.com or P.O. Box 222094, Carmel CA 93922.

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How much does it really cost to drive?

Direct and indirect costs total $1.19/mile

T he Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission has recently released an update of its widely-distributed True Cost of Driving brochure, originally produced in 1997. The brochure identifies both direct and indirect costs of driving. Direct costs are those a driver pays; indirect costs are hidden costs borne by society.

Most people only consider the direct costs of driving—such as gas, insurance, registration, and parking. Costs associated with automobile use that are societal. But, not considered in most people are road construction and maintenance (paid via taxes and fees), air pollution, cost of emergency medical and road service and more. Since those costs aren’t paid directly by car owners but are shared by the general public, including non-drivers, they usually aren’t calculated as costs of driving.

The True Cost of Driving brochure includes a short calculation sheet for readers to calculate their own driving costs based on their annual vehicle mileage. Once all costs are considered, it quickly becomes clear that driving a car costs a lot more than commonly thought. The true cost of driving is $1.19/mile. For many trips, it might make more sense to ride a bike, take a bus, vanpool, carpool, walk or telecommute.

Bicyclists to identify missing links in Sanctuary Trail

F rom starting places at Lover’s Point in Pacific Grove and Wilder Ranch in Santa Cruz, bicyclists will converge on Moss Landing for a ride with Representative Sam Farr on Friday, Saturday, August 16. The riders will be in search of missing links along the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. This proposed 60-mile recreational and interpretive trail will link existing and new trail segments into a continuous coastal route around the Monterey Bay.

Riders welcome

Those interested in riding should contact ride leaders. Those planning to ride should contact Heath Maddox, 460-3211 or heath.maddox@co.santa-cruz.ca.us. Those planning to ride from Pacific Grove, contact Paula Villacres, 373-4341 or pvillacres@ddcplanning.com.

Round trip riders should be capable of riding about 20 miles. One way riders are welcome, but must provide their own shuttle home.
Coastal Cleanup set for September 20

Every year on the third Saturday of September, thousands of Californians participate in California Annual Coastal Cleanup Day to collect litter from our coastlines and watersheds before the winter rains wash the trash and debris into the waterways and the sea. In addition to being an eyesore, the trash and debris collected during California Coastal Cleanup Day cause real danger to both aquatic animals and people. According to the UK-based research group, Sea Life Surveys, scientists estimate that more than one million birds and 100,000 marine mammals and sea turtles die each year from ingestion and entanglement in marine debris.

And if that plastic bag left on the beach doesn’t end up in a sea bird’s belly, have you ever wondered what is the fate of all the plastic trash floating around out there on the great wide Pacific? Marine biologist Michael Moore and the Algalita Marine Research Foundation have discovered a shocking answer. Any piece of plastic that enters and escapes our Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, (or any other location on the North Pacific for that matter) is destined to end up in the “Great Pacific Garbage Patch,” a 10 million-square mile mass of oceanic desert the size of the African continent where research has documented an average of 6 lbs. of plastic polymers for every pound of phytoplankton, the base of the marine food chain.

The good news: Last year in California alone, nearly 50,000 volunteers picked up over 860,000 pounds of trash and debris on California Coastal Cleanup Day!

Santa Cruz and Monterey County residents can unite on Coastal Cleanup Day to make our rivers and beaches safe and beautiful places for all creatures who share the Sanctuary to live and play. Mark your calendars for this year’s Cleanup, Saturday, September 20th, from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

To volunteer:
Santa Cruz County: Sherry Bryan, 426-5925 x23, sherry@ecoact.org or visit www.ecoact.org.
Monterey County: Jean Scott 647-4238, marina_interp@hotmail.com.