

*The* **VENTANA**  
MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

FEB, MAR, APR  
OUTINGS



Lois Robin

The Most Gorgeous River

When  
I got there  
I was astonished!  
The river was like a waving snake  
With fish in its arms  
And  
Egrets on its sides.  
Cattails danced in the wind.  
Tules twisted and turned  
And  
Caterpillars crawled  
Slowly  
Across the leaves.  
— Ian McCaffrey  
4th grade student

**Celebrating the Pajaro Watershed**

p. 6



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

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

#### DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSIONS

All materials for publication must be received by the deadlines listed in *The Ventana* publication schedule (see below). No exceptions.

#### SUBMISSIONS FORMAT

Please limit articles to 800 words; letters to 300. All submissions may be edited for clarity and length. Submissions are preferred via e-mail or on a high density 3-1/2 inch diskette. Save files as "text" or "ascii." Mail hard copy to editor, address below.

#### WHERE TO SEND SUBMISSIONS

Send submissions to: Debbie Bulger, Editor  
1603 King Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
e-mail: [dfbulger@cruzio.com](mailto:dfbulger@cruzio.com)

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#### VENTANA PUBLICATION SCHEDULE:

Issue	Deadline	Mailing Date
#2	Mar. 22	Apr. 8
#3	May 17	Jun. 3
#4	Jul. 19	Aug. 5
#5	Sep. 20	Oct. 7
#6	Nov. 15	Dec. 2

Articles received after deadline may not be published.

## Coastal Commission recommendations could strengthen Monterey County General Plan

At the end of 2003, the California Coastal Commission staff released a draft Periodic Review of the Monterey County Local Coastal Program (LCP) which is required by the California Coastal Act. The purpose is to determine whether or not the County is properly implementing their LCP and to study any resource changes in the coastal zone since the plan was adopted in 1988.

Sierra Club would like to see the recommendations put forward in the staff review incorporated into the Monterey County General Plan Update now being considered by the Board of Supervisors.

The periodic review emphasizes the many changes that have occurred in the 15 years since the LCP was certified. Environmental, scientific, social, legal and political changes as well as population growth all have serious impacts on planning in the coastal zone. For example, since 1988 two species, steelhead and red-legged frog which rely on coastal waters and drainages, are now listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. This means we need to update protection of their habitat to ensure recovery of these species. There is now more information available on coastal resources including more comprehensive aerial photography to track habitat destruction and development. Also, some of the agencies which manage coastal resources have changed the ways in which they work and collabo-

rate with other agencies.

The Monterey County LCP includes four Land Use Plans which include North County, Del Monte Forest, Carmel Area and the Big Sur Coast. Because each of these areas is given careful consideration in the periodic review, the document is lengthy and covers a wide range of topics. These include the water supply and watershed planning, agricultural issues, Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (especially maritime chaparral, Monterey Pines, and sand dunes), public access, road capacity, density, coastal resources and recreation. There isn't space in this column to cover all the categories but some of the most urgent reassessments of interest to Sierra Club members include:

- New information and better understanding of native central maritime chaparral from Elkhorn Slough south through the Big Sur coast. Awareness of the rarity and fragility of this habitat has encouraged land acquisitions to protect the resource, but the LCP has still allowed too much development in and adjacent to maritime chaparral. This development has incrementally fragmented the habitat and has negatively affected this ESHA.

- Recommendations to conserve much larger stands of connected

Monterey Pine forests than before in order to ensure the health of the species. Pitch Canker disease affecting the Monterey Pine has occurred in the last 15 years and requires providing more stringent safeguards for the pines as scientists research this disease.

- Sand dunes are present on 22 residential parcels and the adjacent golf course in Del Monte Forest and have been subject to development proposals, a clear violation of the Coastal Act's ESHA guidelines.

When the periodic review was unveiled to the Board of Supervisors, their reaction was that many of the recommendations were too restrictive and would remove "local control." We need to remind local officials that the people of California voted to create the power and authority of the Coastal Commission because it was obvious local government was unable to protect our scenic coastline and stand up to special interests and developers who contribute to their campaigns.

To view a copy of the draft Periodic Review of the Monterey County LCP, go to [www.coastal.ca.gov/recap/rctop.html](http://www.coastal.ca.gov/recap/rctop.html) and click on the map where it says "Monterey County" or call the California Coastal Commission, 427-4863.

—Rita Dalessio

## FROM THE EDITOR

### Unexpected consequences

When I was 11, I learned in a dramatic way that things don't always go as planned. I was up in a tree on the farm of one of my schoolmates. A grazing horse innocently wandered beneath me. Without thinking, I jumped from the tree limb onto the horse's back. After all, I had seen that same maneuver on TV countless times.

Only, that particular horse had not rehearsed the scene. He snorted, and took off like a shot. The next thing I remember I was sitting on my butt in the

pasture and the horse seemed headed for the next county.

Today, as I look around, it appears to me that humankind, like the 6th grader I once was, is blindly launching itself from tree branches with no forethought as to the result. Like a child, our society seems capable of great gymnastic feats with little consideration of the consequences.

We build houses far from jobs and stores and then complain about the traffic congestion and air quality. We clearcut steep slopes then bemoan dangerous mudslides. We cover our ocean cliffs with concrete and wonder why our beaches are disappearing. It's like that song from the 1960s: "When will we ever learn?"

Is the human race capable of planning for the future or are we forever relegated to the forethought abilities of a grade-school child? I eventually grew up and no longer impulsively fling myself at passing horses. Is our society capable of growing up too?

—Debbie Bulger

### New Executive Committee Members

#### Ventana Chapter

Marilyn Beck  
Julie Engell  
David Epel

#### Santa Cruz Group

Shandra Dobrovolny  
Kristen Raugust  
Richard Shull

Note: Kelly Hildner has resigned and relocated to Santa Barbara. The new Ex-com has appointed Patricia Matejcek to fill Kelly's term.

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# Help support rail right of way purchase

by David Wright

Environmentalists have been hoping for years that, someday, they might walk and cycle in the Santa Cruz County rail right of way, a 31-mile transportation corridor that runs from Davenport to Watsonville. Until recently, the prospect seemed as though it might become a reality. Unfortunately, opposition has arisen and now threatens to derail the project.

There isn't much controversy around the idea of having a rail trail in Santa Cruz County. Most people seem generally enthusiastic about the chance to walk or ride their bikes away from cars in the flat, scenic corridor. The trail will encourage tourism, increase property values along the trail, and provide transportation alternatives to Hwy. 1. The disagreement begins when discussing the best way for the county to purchase the corridor from Union Pacific.

There are two options for buying the corridor. The first involves accepting \$11 million of State Prop. 116 money (specifically earmarked for Santa Cruz County) and matching it with transportation funds already allocated by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). The second option involves taxing residents as part of the highway widening sales tax measure planned for the November ballot.

In the first option, the State will provide the \$11 million only if the county moves forward with some form of passenger rail service such as the proposed recreational Trolley. For many, this is a fair trade off. In fact, many people like trains and think the idea of moving around Santa Cruz by rail attractive.

The second option of a tax measure is fraught with complications. A recent RTC survey showed that the tax measure is likely to fail at the polls. Following on the heels of both a statewide bond measure to compensate for the deficit and Measure F, a tax measure by the City of Santa Cruz, it seems even less likely that voters will want to

tax themselves again in order to create a wider highway.

Unfortunately, a handful of people who live adjacent to the railroad tracks, particularly in Aptos, are opposed to the Trolley and are working hard to derail the project. They are now claiming that accepting Prop. 116 money is financially risky because the Trolley will not be profitable, forcing repayment of the money to the State. This argument falls apart when one examines the facts: since 1990, when California voters approved Proposition 116, nearly \$2 billion has been distributed to counties all over California. In that 13-year period there has never been a case where a county has had to return money to the State.

Even more important, one of the contenders to operate a passenger rail service, Roaring Camp, has written to the RTC guaranteeing to provide recreational rail without fare box subsidies for up to 50 years. Cliff Walters of Roaring Camp wrote, "We would work directly with the State Transportation Commission to make sure we are in compliance with their requirements of the bond funding."

Further, the State provides a 10-year period to establish a rail project. If the proposed recreational trolley project is not successful, it is likely that another project will have been established within the 10-year period. In late January, the Santa Cruz City Council expressed interest in a solar-powered rail shuttle possibly between Long Marine Lab/Seymour Center and the soon-to-be-built Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Visitors' Center.

RTC member Supervisor Ellen Pirie appears to have been swayed by the vocal opponents and has abandoned her campaign promise to support alternative transportation projects. Pirie is now



The Santa Cruz County rail right of way is a 31-mile transportation corridor that runs from Davenport to Watsonville.

speaking out against the Trolley proposal.

Supporters of the Trolley proposal include the Sierra Club, the Santa Cruz bicycling industry, and many businesses including the Seaside Co. and Seascape Resort, as well as small businesses.

It isn't clear why people who don't like trains purchased homes next to the railroad tracks. What is clear is that Santa Cruz County needs transportation alternatives. Over 1000 rail trails have been developed in the U.S.—over 50 of these in California. Monterey County recently accepted Prop 116 money and is now developing rail and pathways for its residents. Santa Cruz County needs to do the same.

The Sierra Club favors transportation that is energy and land conserving and is

the least polluting. The Trolley project and the use of the rail corridor for bicycle travel has enormous potential to reduce automobile trips in Santa Cruz County.

## How to help

- Contact your Santa Cruz County Supervisor to support using Prop. 116 monies to purchase the rail right of way.
- Write a letter to the editor in support of this purchase and the rail project.
- Attend the RTC public hearing on this issue, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 4 at the County Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, to show your support. Project opponents will be there, and we must have a good turnout in support of the project.

## Contact Your Representatives

**President George W. Bush**  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500  
Comment line: (202) 456-1111  
FAX: (202) 456-2461  
president@whitehouse.gov

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

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

**Senator Dianne Feinstein**  
331 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-3841  
(415) 393-0707  
1 Post Street, Suite 2450  
San Francisco, CA 94104  
senator@feinstein.senate.gov

**Senator Barbara Boxer**  
112 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510  
(202) 224-3553  
(415) 403-0100 (Voice)  
1700 Montgomery Street  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
senator@boxer.senate.gov

**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, D.C.)  
samfarr@mail.house.gov

**U.S. Representative Anna Eshoo**  
698 Emerson Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94301  
(408) 245-2339  
FAX (650) 323-3498  
eshoo.house.gov/communicate.html

**State Senator Bruce McPherson**  
701 Ocean Street, Room 318-A  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 425-0401 (Santa Cruz)  
(831) 753-6386 (Salinas)  
toll free: 1-800-224-8050  
senator.mcpherson@sen.ca.gov

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

**Assembly Representative Simon Salinas**  
100 W. Alisal Street, Rm. 134  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 759-8676  
FAX (831) 759-2961  
assemblymember.Salinas@assembly.ca.gov

**Assembly Representative John Laird**  
701 Ocean Street, Room 318-B  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 425-1503  
100 Campus Center, Building 58  
Seaside, CA 93955  
(831) 649-2832  
assemblymember.Laird@assembly.ca.gov

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Richard Stover

“Drought, in case you’re curious, is one of those technical terms for what happens when you have enough water for 1 million residents, but not enough for 4 million, let alone the 10 million that the developers would like to see.”

—Ed Quillen, *High Country News*, 4/28/03

*Sierra Club member Silvia Sweet started harvesting winter’s bountiful crop of rain about eight years ago during Monterey Peninsula water rationing.*

## Water savers collect rain for summer use

by Debbie Bulger

When it is pouring outside during a winter storm, have you ever wondered if you could somehow save that water to use on your garden during the long, dry summer? Or perhaps keep the water on your property to nourish the soil and prevent it from running into the gutter and collecting oil and tire dust and depositing them in the Monterey Bay?

Sierra Club member Silvia Sweet started harvesting winter’s bountiful crop of rain about eight years ago during Monterey Peninsula water rationing. Her modest 550-gallon cistern sits next to her driveway in the front yard of her Carmel Valley home. It’s a simple system; the water flows off the roof into the cistern. Sweet fills her watering can from a spigot on the bottom of the cistern and gives her container plants a drink. She purchased her cistern from a local nursery.

At their house high up on the hillside above Carmel Valley, Tom and Rhonda Augustitus use a water collection system that Tom built himself. The water is collected off the roof in a 500-gallon tank and then transferred to a 6000-gallon above-ground swimming pool purchased to be used as a storage vessel. The swimming pool was an inexpensive solution that appealed to Tom’s do-it-yourself personality. His motivation was to

maintain his vegetable garden during the same water restrictions that prompted Silvia Sweet to purchase her cistern. Since the Augustitus storage pool is below the level of the house, Tom uses a 3/4 hp pump to bring the water up to thirsty plants.

Mark and Kristin Sullivan of Capitola didn’t wait for water restrictions. When they built their new straw bale house (see *The Ventana*, Vol. 42, No 1, 2003) they installed a 2500-gallon cistern in their backyard. The large green tank will soon be screened by the native bushes the Sullivans have planted around it. Their drought-tolerant landscaping is fed all summer from the winter harvest. The pressurized cistern is gravity-fed from the Sullivans’ roof and in turn supplies drip irrigation and a few sprinklers in the yard.

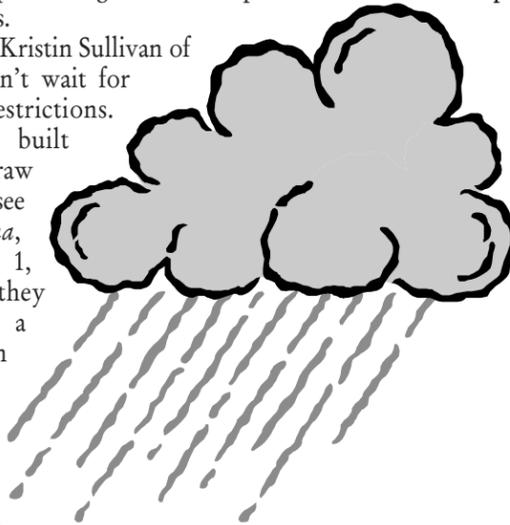
### French drains

An alternative to installing a cistern is

to build French drains which capture water from downspouts directing it into dry wells filled with crushed rock replenishing the water table. French drains can be concealed with filter cloth and topsoil which can be plant-

ed with flowers or other greenery. The connections with the downspouts are buried making the drains virtually invisible.

Many people install French drains to control runoff or standing water which



*Tom Augustitus built his own water collection and storage system.*



Richard Stover



Richard Stover

Mark and Kristin Sullivan's 2500-gallon cistern waters their drought tolerant landscape in the summer.

can cause building damage or erosion. But an additional environmental benefit is that the water is diverted from running into the street and instead is redirected into the ground where it recharges the water table.

Club member Charles Koester of Boulder Creek installed French drains in an L-shape around part of his garage to keep the building from sitting in water after a rain. At Koester's house, the water drips off the garage eaves and into the French drains below on his gently sloping property.

When Richard Stover and Debbie

Bulger were remodeling their house in 1995, they built French drains as an alternative to directing the water into the street (and ultimately into the Bay)-the other choice presented by the City of Santa Cruz Planning Department. "We didn't want to send more pollutants into the Marine Sanctuary," recalls Stover.

#### Costs

Water storage cisterns are available in a great range of sizes from 55 gallons to 5000 gallons and up. They cost from approximately \$150 for a 55-gallon drum to about \$850 for a 2500-gallon size.

Cisterns can be purchased at water supply/sprinkler companies or ordered through some nurseries or gardeners. Installation costs are additional and would depend on your set-up.



Richard Stover

Tom Augustitus uses a 6000 gallon above-ground swimming pool as a water storage vessel.



Debbie Bulger

Richard Stover buried the connections to his French drains, then landscaped over them.

## ATTENTION: Potential Advertisers!

### Sierra Club Member Profile

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

### UCSC to sponsor events about native oaks

The Arboretum at UC Santa Cruz will host an art exhibit and educational display about oaks and the threats facing our native landscape. Accompanying the exhibit will be two lectures:

Sunday, February 29, "Sudden Oak Death: Ecology of an Epidemic" presented by Keyt Fischer. 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 7, "California's Oak Woodlands & Forests" presented by Glenn Keator. 1:30-3:00 p.m.

Lecture tickets are \$10 members, \$15 general. For reservations, call 427-2998 by 5:00 p.m. Friday before each lecture. Gallery admission is free, closed during lectures. The Arboretum is located on High St. in Santa Cruz, 1/2 mile north of the main entrance to campus. For more information visit [www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum](http://www2.ucsc.edu/arboretum).

## Sierra Club Events

Friday, February 13

### Potluck - The Grand Canyon

Jeff West will present slides from his trip to the Grand Canyon. 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.

Friday, February 20

### Vegan Potluck and Video

At this vegan potluck we will watch an entertaining video, 'Diet for all reasons,' by Dr. Michael Klaper explaining why a vegan diet is the healthiest for us. Vegan means no meat, fish, dairy, eggs or honey. 6:30 p.m. and will be hosted by Radha Vignola. For directions call Radha, 427-3211 or George, 335-7748.



Mary Gale, left and Larry Espinosa, right admire the Rumme exhibit with curator Lois Robin, center.

# Rumme

LIVING RIVER

**R**umme is an Ohlone Indian word that means the spirit or *essence* of a River. The Pajaro Valley Art Gallery is currently presenting a multimedia installation and art exhibit "Rumme Living River: the Pajaro River Watershed" that exemplifies the Indian word. You can follow the course of this river system as it flows from the front door to the last room of the Gallery in photographs, paintings, video and sculpture. The exhibit is intended to provide a sense of place for all the communities of the Watershed: Watsonville, Pajaro, Corralitos, Aromas, San Juan Bautista, Hollister, Gilroy and Morgan Hill, and to link them together so that collectively they can find solutions for a healthy, living River.

The exhibition will be open through February 29th. The Gallery is located at 37 Sudden Street, Watsonville. Open 1-5:00 p.m., Wed - Sun.

The Ventana and Loma Prieta Chapters of the Sierra Club supported this exhibit by providing funds for the River of Photos.

Tuesday, February 24

### Potluck - Galapagos

Join Polly Thomas to see flamingos and penguins, fur seals and marine-feeding iguanas, old time whalers' mailboxes and Darwin's famous finches. Share in the fun of discovering this bizarre land and its creatures. 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 Place; park in the lighted area behind the Safeway and enter the side entrance of the mall. For more information call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

Friday, March 12

### Potluck - Amazonia

This slide show will be presented by Don Nielsen. 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.

Wednesday, March 17

### Singles St. Patrick's Party

Meet at 6:00 p.m. at Tony & Alba's: 226 Mt. Hermon Road, Scotts Valley (King's Village shopping center). \$8.00/person; drinks extra. Please be punctual so we know how much pizza to order. Wear green, eat green or be pinched. For more information, call Karen Kaplan after 11:00 a.m. 335-3342.



### Coastal activist training set for Feb. 9

**C**oastal Commissioner Sara Wan will conduct the first of two 3-hour training sessions for those interested in becoming *effective* coastal protection activists. The training is sponsored by ORCA, Organization of Regional Coastal Activists, a group established to teach activists all they need to know about the Coastal Act and how to be effective advocates for the coast.

Learn how to use the Coastal Act, file appeals, work with Coastal Commission staff, lobby Commissioners, and make a memorable presentation at hearings. Plug into the support provided by ORCA activists up and down the California coast.

The training will be held in the Santa Cruz Police Community Room, 155 Center Street, Santa Cruz, 6:15 to 9:30 p.m. FREE. For more information call 423-8567.

Tuesday, March 23

### Potluck - Japan

Visit Japan with Polly Thomas as she explores the main island of Honshu and southern Kyushu and finds beauty and local people. Climb Mount Fuji and view nighttime cormorant fishing during Polly's two and a half years in Japan. Bring food to share for 8 and your own plate and utensils. See Feb. 24 for directions. For more info. call Marion Chilson, 624-3510.

Friday, March 26

### Singles Potluck and Games

Friday evening potlucks are a great way to begin the weekend, and provide a chance to work out weekend plans. 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.



Friday, April 9

### Potluck - Mountain Regions I

Vilma Siebers will show slides of mountain regions in several countries. This is the first of 2 shows. 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.

### 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.*

Tuesday, February 10

### Restore Hetch Hetchy

Ron Good will show slides and an award-winning 15-minute film on Yosemite's lost valley of Hetch Hetchy and current efforts to restore it. Santa Cruz Natural History Museum, 1305 E. Cliff Drive. 7:00 p.m. FREE. For more information visit [www.hetchhetchy.org](http://www.hetchhetchy.org).

Saturday - Sunday February 12-22

### Banff Mountain Film Festival

The best films and videos from the Banff Mountain Film Festival will thrill and inspire you. Different films each day. Rio Theatre, Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz. 7:00 p.m. \$12 general, \$10 students. Tickets available at Bugaboo, Pacific Edge, Adventure Sports, and UCSC Box Office. Benefit for the UCSC Wilderness Orientation Scholarship Program and the UCSC Recreation Adventure Outings Scholarship Fund.

February 21 - April 24

### Arctic Wildlife Photos

This exhibit features eight wildlife photographers including Subhankar Banerjee, the photographer whose book Senator Boxer displayed during Senate debate over oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge, and photos by Santa Cruz photographer Kennan Ward. Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History, 420-6115.

Sunday, February 22

### Worm Workshop

Learn how worms can eat your garbage and make beautiful compost. FREE workshop for Santa Cruz Co. residents, Radonich Ranch, 25140 Highland Way, Los Gatos. 1-3:00 p.m. Optional worm bin \$15. Call to reserve bin. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Call Karin Grobe 427-3452.

Thursday, March 4

### Rail/Trail Hearing

Come to the Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission meeting at the County Government Center at Ocean & Water to support purchase of the rail right of way. We need you. 7:00 p.m. See story on p. 3.

Saturday, March 6

### Clean Waters, Healthy Oceans

The annual Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Symposium will focus on water quality issues affecting our coastal environment. 8:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. CSUMB, Sixth St., Seaside. FREE. Contact Liz Love, 647-4255, [liz.love@noaa.gov](mailto:liz.love@noaa.gov).

Saturdays (see dates below)

### Habitat restoration — California Native Plant Society

Volunteer to restore native habitat in State Parks in Santa Cruz Co. Wear 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. Contact Linda Brodman, 462-4041, [redwdrn@pacbell.net](mailto:redwdrn@pacbell.net). website: [www.cruznps.org](http://www.cruznps.org).  
February 14 Natural Bridges  
February 28 Scott Creek Co. Park  
March 13 Quail Hollow Ranch Park

Second and fourth Saturdays

### Habitat restoration - Watsonville

Sponsored by Watsonville Wetlands Watch. 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Meet in Orchard Supply parking lot at Green Valley Rd. and Main St. in Watsonville. Gloves, tools and lunch provided. Call Laura Kummerer, 728-4106 for more information. No experience needed.

# O U T I N G S

## 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 his/her guests. Carpool drivers are not agents or employees of the Sierra Club.

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

### DIRECTIONS:

**Big Sur Land Trust Parking Lot:** 3785 Via Nona Marie, Carmel. From Hwy. 1 heading south in Carmel, turn left on Rio Road, left on Via Nona Marie, then left into the parking lot behind Monterey County Bank, opposite the Post Office.

**Albertson's/Bagel Bakery:** 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 0.1 mile and then turn right at the light toward the shopping centers. Albertson's and the Bagel Bakery are 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 Safeway parking lot nearest Graham Hill Rd.

**41st Avenue Sears:** From Hwy. 1 in Capitola, take the 41st Avenue exit and continue toward the ocean on 41st Avenue toward the Mall. Pass the main Mall entrance and turn right into the next entrance heading toward Sears. We meet behind the bank located at 41st and Capitola Road. Senior Saunter meets in Sears parking lot close to 41st Avenue.

**MPC Parking Lot:** Monterey Peninsula College Parking Lot. From Hwy. 1 take the Fisherman's Wharf exit, go straight one block, turn left and left again into the first parking lot, parking lot A. This is the site of the Thursday Farmers Market. Plenty of parking without a fee on weekends.

*In the interests 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, ride sharing or anything similar is strictly a private arrangement among the participants. Participants assume the risks associated with this travel.*

## FEBRUARY

Sunday, February 8

### HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL

We'll hike up from Big Sur State Park. Strenuous 11 miles, 3000' elevation gain with incredible views. Wear boots, bring lunch and lots of water. Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 655-3109 (new number).

Sunday, February 8

### HIKE: TASSAJARA LOOP

This strenuous hike in the heart of the Ventana Wilderness is best done in winter. Expect a great wonderful tour. Call for necessary information. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, 510-215-9255 or Bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

Saturday, February 7

### HIKE: PINNACLES

Winter is the best time for the Pinnacles. We'll do the High Peaks, Balconies and caves. 9 miles, 1200' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, a flashlight and \$ for carpool and parking. Meet at K-Mart in Seaside, next to the gas station at 8:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

Sunday, February 8

### WALK: POINT LOBOS

Easy 2-mile circle saunter around Whaler's Cove, the Pit and Moss Cove to the south end of Monastery Beach. Splendid or your money back. Meet behind Brinton's at 10:00 a.m. Bring snack, water, and dress for weather-windbreaker advised. Rain cancels. For more info., call leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Tuesday, February 10

### SENIOR SAUNTER: SALINAS RIV. BEACH

We'll walk along the beach to see an old shipwrecked boat half buried in the sand, and then on to nearby Salinas River. Walk is on dirt road and sand. Easy 3 miles. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. To go direct, take Hwy. 1 south to Marina - Del Monte Blvd. exit and turn right. Meet at dirt parking lot at

10:00 a.m. Bring lunch, jacket and \$2 for carpool. Leader: Grace Hansen, 476-7254.

Wednesday, February 11

### HIKE: PT. LOBOS

Hike thru bold headlands, coves, and meadows to view spectacular Monterey Bay. We'll hike along the south plateau trail, south shore trail, over whalers knoll and finish

the 8-miles at Granite Pt. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Avenue at 9:00 a.m., or Espress Deli at Rio Del Mar exit at 9:15 a.m. or at the park entrance at 10:10 a.m. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, February 14

### HIKE: JACKS PEAK

5-mile perimeter loop of the park, with some elevation gain. Great views of Monterey Bay

## NOTICE

Club events such as potlucks, slide shows and other get-togethers are on page 6 in the Calendar listings.

## The Bird Feeder A Birder's Emporium



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Call UCSC Recreation @ (831) 459-2806 for more info. We adhere to A.D.A.

and Pt. Lobos. Bring water and lunch. Meet at K-mart parking lot (gas station side) in Seaside at 10:00 a.m. Rain cancels. Leader: Andrea Phelps, andrea\_phelps@csumb.edu.

Sunday, February 15

### WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.

We'll hike where the whim will take us. Dress for weather. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Albertson's in Carmel at 9:00 a.m. Definitely call for more information. Leader: Harry Rockey, 625-7632.

Tuesday, February 17

### SENIOR SAUNTER: WILDER RANCH

We'll climb up the Baldwin Loop Trail, a 3.5 mile steep uphill with great ocean vistas. Bring sit-upon for wet ground. Dress for weather. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at 9:50 a.m. at Mission and King next to Shen's Gallery. Bring lunch, water and \$3 for carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi, 662-2434.

Wednesday, February 18

### HIKE: EL SERENO OPEN SPACE

This 1411-acre preserve, named for Mt. El



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Sereno, is part of a prominent ridge located south of Saratoga and west of Los Gatos on the hillside west of Lexington Reservoir. 7 miles on trail through chaparral with panoramic views of the South Bay. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Avenue at 9:00 a.m. or at the trailhead 3 miles up Montevina Rd. from Hwy. 17 near Lexington Reservoir. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

*Saturday, February 21*

**HIKE: ALMADEN QUICKSILVER CO. PARK**

Explore this former mercury mining area. At one mine entrance, you'll get to feel 50-degree air which has been circulating for years in almost 100 miles of underground tunnels and shafts. 11 miles with 2000' elevation gain. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

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*Saturday, February 21*

**HIKE: KAHN RANCH**

We'll watch for early spring flowers as we take a short but steep loop on the Hitchcock Canyon and Manzanita trails. 5 miles, 600' elevation gain. Slow pace uphill. Because access to this area of Garland Park is strictly limited, phone leader for meeting time and place. Bring lunch, water, sun and/or rain gear, and your own transportation to Carmel Valley. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

*Saturday, February 21*

**HIKE: LOWER PEBBLE BEACH**

Enjoy spectacular ocean views on this 9-mile hike starting near Asilomar down the coast to Bird Rock, then east through Del Monte Forest, Poppy Hills, and the S.F.B. Morse Reserve. We'll proceed along Spanish Bay Golf Course. Bring water, lunch, and wear hiking shoes. Meet in front of the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Dr. at Asilomar Ave. in Pacific Grove at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 625-5256.

*Sunday, February 22*

**HIKE: PINNACLES**

The Pinnacles are beautiful in winter! We'll hike the North Wilderness Trail. 10 miles with 1,000' elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, a flashlight and wear boots. Meet at K-Mart in Seaside near the gas station to carpool at 8:00 a.m. or at the West Pinnacles parking lot at 9:00 a.m. Call leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

*Tuesday, February 24*

**SENIOR SAUNTER: POGONIP FROM HARVEY WEST**

4 miles with slight climbs from Harvey West to Pogonip clubhouse, to Sacred Tree to lime kilns for lunch. Then walk back to Spring Street and down hidden staircase to Harvey West. Dress for weather. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or 9:50 a.m. at Harvey West parking lot by pool. Bring lunch, water, and \$1 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog 458-9841.

*Friday, February 27*

**HIKE: PINNACLES**

From the west side, we'll hike an 8+ mile loop that takes in the highlights: Juniper Canyon, High Peaks, Balconies and Caves. Wonderful views. Terrain includes some narrow, steep and maybe wet stretches. We'll take it at a leisurely pace. Bring lunch, water, sturdy shoes and a flashlight for the caves. Meet at MPC parking lot A at 8:30 a.m. (bring change for the modest parking fee on a week-day) or Chaparral parking lot, West Pinnacles, at 10:00 a.m. (entrance fee). Rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427, marydainton@juno.com.

*Saturday, February 28*

**HIKE: CASTLE ROCK**

9 miles with 1000' elevation gain. Great views. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. or at the Castle Rock main parking lot at 9:45 a.m. Bring lunch and water. Wear hiking boots. Leader: Jim Danaher, 465-6818.

*Saturday, February 28*

**HIKE: VICENTE FLAT**

Great views on this 11-mile hike in redwoods, and meadows. 2000' elevation gain. One-hour carpool down Big Sur Coast. Bring water, lunch and \$ for carpool. Wear boots. Heavy rain cancels. Meet at Carmel Bagel Bakery at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

*Sunday, February 29*

**HIKE: ASILOMAR/PEBBLE BEACH**

Easy 4-mile loop, starting on neighborhood streets, then through dunes, and more. We hope to see spring wildflowers and possibly whale spouts. Meet across from the Fishwife Restaurant on Sunset Drive in Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Back by noon. Bring a snack and water. Leader: Martha Saylor, 372-9215.

## MARCH

*Tuesday, March 2*

**SENIOR SAUNTER: FRANKLIN POINT**

Franklin Pt., part of Año Nuevo State Park, is located 3.5 miles north of park entrance. We'll walk thru sand dunes and onto marine terraces. Great views. It will be low tide, so we should be able to enjoy beach walking. 2+ miles, some on loose sand. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at Mission and King at 9:50 a.m. Dress for weather. Bring lunch, water \$3 carpool and share of entrance \$. Leader: Robert Franson 251-7042.

*Friday - Sunday, March 5 - 7*

**SKI: CLAIR TAPPAAN LODGE**

We have a 12-person room at Clair Tappaan Lodge. Cost for weekend is \$105/members and \$111/non-members. Price includes all meals (Vegetarian available). X-country ski rentals and lessons available (for a fee) at the lodge. Free access to groomed trails from the back door. Free shuttle bus from the lodge to cross-country and down-hill ski areas. Participants will have one chore each day. For reservation and trip information, send the completed form below, a check for the total amount (payable to Sierra Club) and a SASE or e-mail address to Clair Tappaan Ski, P.O. Box 604 Santa Cruz 95061. Mail-in reservations must be received by Feb. 25. Information will be sent to you on Feb. 26. Refunds for cancellations are 90% before Feb. 27, 75% by Mar. 4, 50% after the 4th. For more details call leader, George Jammal at 335-7748.

*Saturday, March 6*

**HIKE: POINT LOBOS**

Explore the beach coves and points of Point Lobos, one of the grandest spots on God's green earth. Maximum 5 miles, easy hiking. Bring lunch and water. Binoculars recommended. Meet at Albertson's at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Charles Gagarin, 659-1062, co-leader: Charlotte Anderson, 624-3101.

*Sunday, March 7*

**HIKE: POGONIP**

We'll see the haunted meadow, sacred oak, kilns, and other thrilling sights. Meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government

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**Friday - Monday, March 5-7**  
 (Read the write-up for more details)

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Total enclosed (make checks payable to Sierra Club) = \_\_\_\_\_

Departing day/time \_\_\_\_\_ Returning day/time \_\_\_\_\_

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 I/we need a ride

You may give my name and phone number to other participants.  
*Rides cannot be guaranteed, reserve at your own risk.*

A Self Addressed Stamped Envelope is enclosed OR email: \_\_\_\_\_

Center. 6 miles. Bring lunch and water. Leader: Sheila Dunningway, 336-2325.

*Sunday, March 7*

**HIKE: PICO BLANCO CAMP**

Strenuous 12-mile hike with 2,200' elevation gain from Botcher's Gap to Pico Blanco Camp to Little Sur River Trailhead. Car shuttle. See the most beautiful pool and waterfall on the Little Sur River. Wear boots, bring lunch and water, and \$ for car pooling. Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

*Sunday, March 7*

**WALK: CARMEL CIRCLE**

Come on a 3-mile rambling loop in Carmel. We'll start at Carmel River Beach, past Mission Ranch, up Mission Trails Park, back along the Carmel Beach. Pine trees, postcard houses, ocean beaches, spring gardens-we'll see it all. Meet at Carmel River State Beach parking lot, south end of Carmello Street in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. Bring water and a snack. Wear comfortable shoes and a windbreaker. Rain cancels. Leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

*Tuesday, March 9*

**SENIOR SAUNTER: POGONIP VIA SPRING STREET**

Moderate 5-mile hike in this diverse city park. Enjoy fresh clean air and nice views. No bathroom until lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at the north end of Spring St. at 10:00 a.m. Bring lunch, water and \$1 for carpool. Leader: Joan Brohmer and Peter Lazo 462-3803.

*Saturday, March 13*

**BIKE/HIKE: PEBBLE BEACH**

This outing was rained out in November: bike and hike in Pebble Beach. Meet and start by bike from Fishwife Restaurant at Hwy. 68 and Asilomar Blvd. in Pacific Grove at 9:00 a.m. Gentle uphill 4 miles to Morse Reserve. Hike about 3 miles, to see trees generally found nowhere else. Bring water and lunch. Heavy rain cancels (not again!). Leader: Marilyn Beck, 372-6860 or outbeck@juno.com.

*Sunday, March 14*

**WALK: SOMEWHERE IN MONTEREY CO.**

See Feb. 15 for description. Leader: Harry Rockey, 625-7632.

*Tuesday, March 16*

**SENIOR SAUNTER: QUAIL HOLLOW**

Docent Mike Fisher will join us for a hike around Quail Hollow Ranch County Park to see unique sandhills and a variety of other habitats. We'll walk the Discovery Loop, flat and less than 1 mile. Those who wish can continue on the Italian Trail and Chaparral Loop for other 1+ mi. with moderate uphill. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or at 9:50 a.m. at Felton Faire. Bring lunch, water and \$2 for carpool. Leaders: Jean Harrison, 425-5447 and Mary Lou Schneider, 479-1859.

*Wednesday, March 17*

**HIKE: ALMADEN QUICKSILVER CO. PARK**

Almaden Quicksilver Park is the site of over 135 years of mining activity and an area of natural diversity with one of the most spectacular wildflower displays in the region. 8 miles. At the end of the hike we'll have a

chance to visit the park's mining museum. Bring lunch and water. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 10:00 a.m. at Hacienda Park Entrance at the end of Almaden Rd. off Hwy. 85 exit Almaden Expwy. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

*Saturday, March 20*

**HIKE: BUTANO STATE PARK**

Celebrate the spring equinox with a 10-mile hike through magnificent old-growth redwoods to the headwaters of Butano Creek. Hike along the north ridge, with fine views. We should see many wildflowers including perhaps a colony or two of the uncommon Calypso orchids (John Muir's favorite wildflower). Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Government Center to carpool. Bring lunch and water. Leaders: Peter and Celia Scott, 423-0796 or drip@ucsc.edu.

*Saturday, March 20*

**HIKE: MOUNT MANUEL**

Ascend the long sunny ridge from Big Sur State Park. Strenuous 11-mile, 3,000' elevation gain. Panoramic views. Bring lunch, plenty of water, sun hat and sun block, \$ for carpool and park fee. Meet at the Bagel Bakery in Carmel at 8:30 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

*Saturday, March 20*

**HIKE: BLOMQUIST RANCH**

Enjoy an easy 6-mile hike in upper Carmel Valley. We'll walk up a moderately inclined

dirt road to the old cabin site. Expect wonderful wildflowers and perhaps some mushrooms along the way. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Mid-Valley Shopping Center near the bank at 9:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

*Sunday, March 21*

**SWEEP AND HIKE: GLEN DEVEN RANCH**

Let's combine some habitat restoration with a short hike on this beautiful property belonging to the Big Sur Land Trust. No experience needed, just willingness to help out and a desire to explore a lovely bit of Big Sur. The number of participants is limited, so call for sign up and more information. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

*Sunday, March 21*

**HIKE: TIN HOUSE**

6-mile loop starting at Tan Bark Trail to panoramic viewpoint above the ocean. We should see some wildflowers and possibly some whales when we descend the fire road. Bring hat, water, lunch, and \$ for hour-long carpool. Meet at Albertson's in Carmel at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, andrea\_phelps@csumb.edu.

*Tuesday, March 23*

**SENIOR SAUNTER: DE LAVEAGA PARK**

Feel as if you're in the forest in your own back yard. Hike by Branciforte Creek, redwoods, laurels and oaks. Some uphill. 3 miles. Dress for weather. Meet at Sears 41st Ave.

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



**Humanism:** Systems of thought stressing rational inquiry & human experience over abstract theorizing 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 **HAMBA, the Monterey Bay Chapter of the American Humanist Association, anne@redshift.com or P.O. Box 222094, Carmel CA 93922.**



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# O U T I N G S

before 9:30 a.m. or at the park by restroom. Bring lunch, water and \$1 for carpool. Leader: Beverly Meschi 662-2434.

Wednesday, March 24

## HIKE: GARLAND PARK

Starting at the willow-covered banks of the Carmel River, we'll hike 8 miles through reminders of the Rumsien Indians, logging sites, homesteads, livestock ponds, and the ranch house. We'll start at the lupine loop and go past the waterfall to find wildflowers. Bring lunch and water. Some uphill. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. at 9:00 a.m. or at 9:15 a.m. at

Express Deli, Rio Del Mar exit Hwy 1 or 10:10 a.m. at the parking lot for Garland, 8.6 miles east of Hwy. 1 on Carmel Valley Rd. Leader: Diane Cornell 423-5925.

Saturday, March 27

## HIKE: HENRY COE STATE PARK

Our exact path will depend on weather conditions. Hopefully we'll see wildflowers. 11 miles with 2000' elevation gain. Steep and strenuous. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Leader: Nick Wyckoff, 462-3101.

Saturday, March 27

## HIKE: UPPER PEBBLE BEACH

8 miles through old Del Monte Forest. We leave from Carmel Beach traveling through Pescadero Canyon, on to Huckleberry Point, down through S.F.B. Morse Reserve, and out through Poppy Hills. Bring water, lunch, and wear hiking shoes. Meet on Carmel Beach at the west end of Ocean Avenue at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Stacy Smith, 625-5256.

Sunday, March 28

## WALK: NORTH RECREATION TRAIL

Explore a part of the Monterey Seaside Rec. Trail. We'll walk about 2 hours or more depending on the will of the group. Wear comfortable shoes. Bring water and a snack. Meet in the Dennis the Menace playground parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Chat and Bevy Gaudier, 375-8995.

Tuesday, March 30

## SENIOR SAUNTER: FORT ORD

The Fort Ord Public Lands are managed by Bureau of Land Management to protect 35 species of rare plants and animals and their native coastal habitats. In the past, we have enjoyed good displays of wildflowers. 4 to 5 miles. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water, \$4 carpool and wear hiking shoes. Dress for weather. Call leader if

you go direct. Leader: Robert Franson, 251-7042.

## APRIL

Saturday, April 3

## HIKE: PINNACLES WILDFLOWERS

A slow-paced, 8-mile hike with 1200' elevation gain to enjoy and identify the wide variety of blooming plants. Bring your flower book, field lens and camera. Meet at the Santa Cruz County Government Center at 8:30 a.m. or at the Chaparral parking lot at 10:30 a.m. (on the West side, off Hwy. 101). Bring lunch, water, sun protection and hiking shoes. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Saturday, April 3

## HIKE: HUCKLEBERRY HILL

We'll find our thrill on Huckleberry Hill, on the east side of Point Lobos. Moderate climb through a series of ecosystems from Monterey Pine to oak to chaparral to grassland with wildflowers to pine. Possible side trip to the redwoods of Gibson creek. 4 miles with 900' elevation gain. Meet at Albertson's at 10:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Charles Gagarin, 659-1062, work: 659-8009, co leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Sunday, April 4

## HIKE: ROCKY RIDGE

This is the place where we find the most wildflowers, in numbers and in variation. Let's dedicate this outing to the memory of the Ventana Chapter's unforgettable leader Joan DiStefano who loved this hike so much and led it several times each year. We'll go up through Soberanes Cyn., hike as far as we want or to the park border, and will return on the Rocky Ridge Trail. A loop of about 5-8 miles, very steep, about 2,000' elevation gain but we'll go slowly with many breaks. Bring water and lunch, wear shoes with a good tread. Camera and binoculars optional. Meet at Albertson's at 10:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Anneliese Suter, 624-1467.

Tuesday, April 6

## SENIOR SAUNTER: ANO NUEVO

Hike around the sand dunes and see elephant seals and lots of pups. 3+ miles, some in sand. We'll return to the Visitor Center for lunch. Entrance fee is \$8. Dress for weather. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water and \$4 for carpool, plus part of entrance fee. Leader: Grace Hansen, 476-7254.

Friday, April 9

## HIKE: VEEDER TRAIL & REDWOOD CYN.

In spring the Veeder Trail in Garland Park hosts a profusion of wildflowers. Our 3 to 4 mile loop hike will be very steep. Bring water and lunch. Meet behind Brinton's at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Heavy rain cancels. Leaders: Cath Farrant and Mary Dainton, 372-7427.

Saturday, April 10

## SPRING SAUNTER: BLOMQUIST RANCH

We have special permission from the Regional Park District to visit the Carmel Valley Ranch. Join us for an easy saunter of up to 6 miles. No trail burners. We'll enjoy beautiful vistas of mature Valley Oaks and spring beauty. Bring lunch, water and a windbreaker. Reservations required; space is limited. Call leader: Joyce Stevens, 624-3149.

Sunday, April 11

## HIKE: POST SUMMIT

Very strenuous hike in Big Sur, over Post Summit to Pico Blanco Public Camp via Mount Manuel trail, and down to the Coast Road on the Little Sur trail. 15 miles, 3400' elevation gain. Bring lunch and water, wear boots and be prepared for brush (small clipper recommended). Meet at Albertson's at 8:00 a.m. Heavy rain cancels. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Wednesday, April 14

## HIKE: FT. ORD

Hike over oak-studded hillsides and rolling grasslands near Laguna Seca. Ridgetops afford great views and a chance to see raptors and hillsides of wildflowers. Bring water and lunch. 8 miles. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave.; at 9:15 a.m. at Express Deli at Rio Del Mar exit off Hwy. 1; or at 10:00 a.m. at trailhead 10.4 mi. from the junction of Hwy. 1 and Hwy. 68 in Monterey on the north side of the highway up from redwood carving display. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, April 17

## HIKE: GARZAS CREEK

We'll check out the blooms along the Terrace Trail and then drop down to Garzas Canyon to return along the creek. 5 miles, little elevation gain. The flowers should make it all worthwhile. Meet at 9:30 a.m. in the main parking lot of Garland Ranch (on Carmel Valley Road). Bring lunch and water. Leader: Mary Gale, 626-3565.

Friday - Sunday, April 23 - 25

## BACKPACK: VENTANA WILDERNESS

Escondido to Arroyo Seco. We'll start from Escondido Camp to Lost Valley (5.8 miles). Saturday, we'll pass Indian Valley and the grinding rocks before we lunch at a beautiful waterfall near Tan Oak Camp. After spending the night at Strawberry Valley Camp (8.7 miles), we'll continue to Arroyo Seco (8.4 miles). 21.9 miles total; rated 3B. Individual Commissary. Contact leader: Henry Leinen, Hleinen@aol.com. Cost \$5. Car shuttle on Friday afternoon.

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# Threat to hills countywide

Planning Commission vote could set precedent for steep slope vineyards

Monterey County currently prohibits cultivation on slopes exceeding 25%. The Chapter has successfully fought to uphold this law repeatedly over the past several years. We filed a legal challenge in 1998 which resulted in the County reversing its decision to allow an exception for viticulture. Currently, the protective ordinance faces a threat from a seemingly insignificant source: a small vineyard in a residential neighborhood in Carmel Valley.

County staff agreed the steep slope ordinance had been violated on this property, but the Planning Commission voted 7 to 3 to overturn the violation. This decision threatens to be a precedent.

Why is this important? The Sierra Club, Carmel Valley Association, and a Prunedale neighborhood group spoke at the hearing about how dangerous it would be to set such a precedent which would affect the whole county. According to county staff, there are 162,000 acres of land between 25% and 30% in Monterey County. This figure

does not include steeper slopes over 30% which could be opened to cultivation if this ordinance is weakened.

Steep slopes abound in coastal areas in Carmel Valley, North County, and Salinas. The local chapter of the California Native Plant Society supports prohibitions on steep slope conversion and does not want to see the ordinance weakened.

From an environmental perspective, cultivation on steep slopes presents erosion problems; increases run off; and destroys native habitat, wildlife corridors, and viewsheds. In addition, converting land in residential neighborhoods to agriculture establishes conflicts with residents because of pesticide, fungicide and herbicide use; truck traffic to plant, tend and harvest; associated noise and air pollution; and increased use of water.

In short, the law must be enforced to protect both the environment and residents' health, safety and quality of life.



## Big Wine

Monterey Supervisors approve Gallo project without EIR

As we go to press, the Monterey Board of Supervisors voted 3 to 2 (Potter and Armenta against) to approve a 350-acre-foot reservoir on eight acres near Soledad to accommodate a vineyard expansion by corporate winemaker, Gallo.

Sierra Club did not oppose the vineyard expansion itself, but argued for a thorough environmental review of this huge project The Club called for an EIR to consider where the best site would be for the proposed reservoir, dam and drainage ditch. The site selected by Gallo, and now approved by the Supervisors, would require cutting down 321 mature native oaks adjacent to a wildlife corridor. As Supervisor Dave Potter noted, the 913,125 cubic yards of grading required by the project is more than seen in most subdivisions and should warrant environmental review.

The inadequate environmental analysis was further compounded by the fact that environmental documents were arriving at the last minute, too late for independent review. Gallo's past environmental track record has not been sterling; the company has been assessed significant fines in Sonoma for damage to nearby waterways. Proper environmental review might determine a less sensitive site for the water structures on Gallo's 2100-acre ranch.

The Monterey Bay Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) also expressed concern about the conclusions of the weak environmental review.

CNPS testified that the plan to replace lost trees with saplings, even 2 to 1, will not replace the habitat value and loss of biomass from destruction of the existing mature oaks. Ecosystem services provided by mature oaks include cover and food for wildlife, soil enrichment, increased water absorption, and slope stabilization.

In addition, the Supervisors accepted as a "mitigation" a conservation easement on land that is too steep to plant legally and as such is no mitigation at all. The maps for the easement property were misleading and drawn to make the land in question look less steep—a fact that the Club helpfully pointed out.

The Club was joined in its concerns about this project by the United Farm Workers who are challenging Gallo on the environmental impacts of the project, Gallo's labor practices and the project's benefits to the wine industry in Monterey County. Together, we called for Gallo to be both a good steward of the land, and a good employer.

### Wilderness First Aid Classes

Two-day course (16 hours) includes patient assessment, shock, fractures, hypothermia, altitude sickness and more. \$145 for non-UCSC students. Weekends: Mar. 6-7, Apr. 17-18, May 1-2, May 15-16, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Stevenson College, UCSC. Call for more details, 459-2806 or contact the Wilderness Medicine Institute of NOLS, (307) 332-8802 or <http://wmi.nols.edu>.

Please Recycle This Paper Again

## The Sierra Club's



### Clair Tappaan Lodge

Your Getaway in the Sierra

Come visit Sierra Club's flagship lodge and enjoy the spring with its mountain trails and vistas, wildflowers lakes and streams. The Lodge offers many exciting workshops and outdoor activities. Clair Tappaan is now managed by Miramar Hospitality, but you will notice few operational changes. You can still bring a bottle of wine for our greatly improved dinners.

#### Popular activities this spring will include

##### Ski Bus Trips

February 20-22 and March 26-28. Leave from and return to Oakland. \$115 members, \$125 non-members, \$65 kids 12 and under. Free shuttles to all five local resorts.

##### Spring Skiing in the Sierra

March 21-26. Five days of guided ski trips. Moderate to challenging trails and classic Sierra scenery. \$475 members, \$495 non-members.

##### Snowshoe Ecology Tour

April 2-4. Broaden your knowledge of alpine ecology and see some magnificent scenery. \$100 members, \$110 non-members.

##### Tibetan Qigong Workshop

April 30-May 2. For more information on this ancient practice that acknowledges the connectedness of body, mind and spirit to health or illness, visit the website of the sponsoring organization: [www.tibetanqigong.org](http://www.tibetanqigong.org). \$155 members, \$165 non-members.

##### Spring Work Party

May 21-23. Come help spruce up the Lodge. Work 6 hours a day, eat and sleep for free. Space is limited; for more details and to reserve, please contact Richard Watson, (415) 461-9255.

##### Memorial Day Weekend

May 28-31. Join biologists, geologists and naturalists for a series of educational hikes and talks. \$125 members, \$135 non-members.

##### High Sierra Serenity

June 20-25. 6 days, 5 nights, 12 steps. Hike, fish and paint in late spring splendor after morning 12-step meetings. For more information, please contact Lois Piper, (310) 378-3859 or Mark Flo, (562) 420-8121. \$250 members, \$260 non-members.

For more information about the lodge, rates, updates to the program and activity schedules, and ski packages, please visit our website [www.ctl.sierraclub.org](http://www.ctl.sierraclub.org) or call 530-426-3632.

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# SIERRA CLUB ENDORSES



## Central Coast Candidates

**Sam Farr**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
17th District



Sierra Club endorses incumbent Representative Sam Farr for re-election. Congressman Farr was awarded National Sierra Club's prestigious Ed Wayburn Award in September for his strong leadership in environmental legislation and causes.

In 2003, he spent time on a broad array of issues, all of which tie in to the quality of life on the Central Coast including:

- Sponsored the Southern Sea Otter Research and Recovery act, a bill that will help bring back California's beloved sea otters by authorizing a recovery program administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bill will also aid Monterey Bay area marine scientists in determining the causes of poor sea otter health and assist in population recovery by authorizing a research program administered by the Dept. of Interior.

- Began drafting, and will continue to work on a piece of comprehensive oceans legislation in response to the soon-to-be released U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy report.

- Secured funds for the planning and design of a new Agriculture Research Service facility in Salinas, as well as funds for research into pests and diseases that impact crops in the 17th district (i.e. Verticillium Wilt and Pierce's disease.)

- Introduced the Puppy Protection Act which would stop the overbreeding of female dogs in puppy mills and create a "three strikes you're out" policy for chronically abusive breeders.

**Ted Lempert**  
11th State Senate District



The Sierra Club endorses former Assembly Member Ted Lempert in the 11th State Senate District, where Lempert and current Assembly Member Joe Simitian are vying for the Democratic nomination to replace term-limited State Senator Byron Sher. Sher

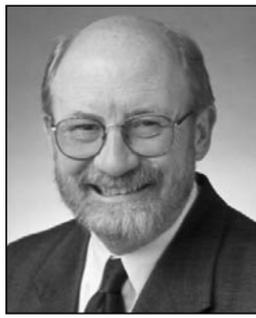
has endorsed Lempert as his successor. The 11th Senate District, includes the Santa Cruz and San Mateo County coastline.

Lempert occupied the Assembly seat currently held by Simitian for eight years until term limits forced him to leave. As an Assembly Member, Lempert's environmental voting record was rated 100% by the California League of Conservation Voters.

As an Assembly Member Ted Lempert authored the Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act that became a model for the country in preventing and responding to oil spills along the coast. He also authored the California Coastal Sanctuary Act that banned new offshore oil and gas drilling and established a permanent ban on all new offshore oil and gas leases in state waters between San Simeon and the Farallons.

During his second four years in the State Assembly, Lempert authored the Ballast Water Management Program, the first of its kind in the country, to control the invasion of nonnative species along the coast.

**John Laird**  
27th State Assembly District



Sierra Club endorses John Laird for 27th Assembly District. 2003 was John Laird's first year in the State Assembly. No other first-term member had more bills signed into law last year than John Laird. Twelve of his 13 bills were signed by the Governor, and Laird was also named Chair of the Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials.

Several bills focused on environmental issues, including:

- AB 1492 strengthens the Williamson Act by increasing penalties and closing loopholes for those who would violate the Williamson Act's agricultural land preservation contracts;

- AB 1700 preserves federal funding of toxic cleanup programs at former military installations, such as Fort Ord, helping spur economic revitalization at these sites;

- AB 1420 establishes a statewide elk management plan and increases the effectiveness of the Department of Fish & Game's code and regulatory enforcement without additional cost; and

- AB 1640 enables tighter enforcement of Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) programs, ensuring better administration of hazardous waste and hazardous materials programs at the local level.

Assembly Member Laird was also the lead author of AB 1702, which strengthens the state's Underground Storage Tank (UST) regulations through tougher reporting requirements and specification that owners and operators of USTs are responsible for legal compliance.

Highlighting Assembly Member

## Vote yes on Proposition 56, the Budget Accountability Act

by Bill Magavern, Senior Legislative Representative, Sierra Club California

Proposition 56, the Budget Accountability Act on the March primary ballot, will reform the State budget process. California is one of only three states that routinely require a vote of two-thirds or more in each house of the legislature to pass a budget. The two-thirds requirement enables a minority of members who may oppose environmental funding, to block budget adoption. The requirement is profoundly anti-democratic.

Proposition 56 reduces the vote threshold to adopt the State budget and related tax legislation from two-thirds to 55%. This sensible reform will allow the will of the people to be expressed through budgets that adequately protect our resources and public health.

Prop. 56 holds politicians accountable by withholding the Governor's and legislators' pay until they pass a budget. It encourages responsible budget decisions by the legislature, restrains partisan extremes, eases budget gridlock, and requires a real "rainy day" fund to help balance the budget in hard times.

Through the Voter Information Guide and a website, Proposition 56 also provides voters with information on how the State spends its funds and how legislators voted on budget issues. This information enables voters to hold elected officials accountable for budgets that shortchange the environment.

Over the past few years, hundreds of millions of dollars have been cut from State programs that would reduce air pollution, decrease asthma, clean up toxic sites, and encourage smart growth. This year's budget crisis, like others in the past, endangers our environment, as scientists and enforcers at State agencies do not have the resources to do their jobs.

The coalition opposing Proposition 56 is funded by big oil, alcohol, tobacco and other industries who are clearly interested in protecting the status quo in order to preserve their own polluting interests. They benefit when a small

Laird's deeply held commitment to ongoing protection of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, he jointly authored AB 121 & AB 906. Together, these bills prohibit discharge of sewage, sludge, oily bilge water or hazardous waste into State waters and national marine sanctuaries along the State's coast.

minority retains a disproportionate amount of influence.

Public opinion polls and the approval of several recent bond measures show that voters strongly support funding clean air, clean water, coastal protection and open-space preservation. Budget accountability reform is essential to prevent an anti-environment minority from frustrating the wishes of the voters.

Prop. 56 is a good-government measure that will increase accountability. As the *Sacramento Bee* editorialized: "The two-thirds rule creates a system designed to produce a late budget, and usually an irresponsible one, but leaves no one accountable for the failure. It undermines democracy."

Make legislators and the governor accountable to Californians and not to polluting special interests. Prop. 56 is endorsed not only by Sierra Club, but also by over 150 other organizations including the American Lung Association of California, the League of Women Voters of California, California Common Cause, California Budget Project, California State PTA and California League of Conservation Voters.

Go to [www.budgetaccountabilitynow.org](http://www.budgetaccountabilitynow.org) to learn more about this important initiative. **Vote YES on Prop. 56.** Do not confuse it with Prop 57. or Prop. 58.



**Check website for additional endorsements**

[www.ventana.sierraclub.org](http://www.ventana.sierraclub.org)  
At press time the Chapter and Group had not completed endorsements for local races in the March 2 primary.

# VOTE MARCH 2

## Monterey County

### Jane Parker

Monterey  
County  
Supervisor  
4th District



The Ventana Chapter endorses Jane Parker for Monterey County Supervisor for the 4th District. The 4th District is an open race as pro-growth incumbent Edith Johnson will be vacating her seat. This is an opportunity to put someone with environmental priorities and a social conscience on the Board of Supervisors. Jane Parker plans to advocate for policies to protect the quality of Monterey County's land, air, and water; to pursue sound land use principles such as city-centered growth and a jobs/housing balance; to bring about more affordable housing to the community, and to work to ensure access to community health care and county health services.

Jane Parker currently serves as Chair of the Monterey Peninsula College Board where she is an advocate for quality education-opposing unfair education cuts proposed by Sacramento and leading efforts to attract and retain quality faculty and teaching staff.

Parker also serves as a Vice President for Planned Parenthood Mar Monte where she raises \$5 million/year for provision of essential family health services, education, and counseling. Prior to serving with Planned Parenthood, Jane founded and managed a healthy meal preparation and delivery service targeting working families and homebound

### Dave Potter

Monterey  
County  
Supervisor  
5th District



The Ventana Chapter endorses incumbent Dave Potter for Monterey County Board of Supervisor's Fifth District, now representing Big Sur, Carmel, Carmel Valley, Monterey, Pacific Grove, Pebble Beach, the Hwy. 68 corridor and Las Palmas in Salinas. Potter is running for his third term, having served since November, 1996. During this time, his accomplishments have included:

- Opposing the proposed Hatton Canyon Freeway and supporting the canyon as open space.
- Opposing the proposed new Los Padres Dam on the Carmel River.
- Initiating the County requirement for proof of water supply before issuance of building permits.
- Supporting the countywide ban on transferring water credits at the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District.
- Supporting a General Plan Update for Monterey County based on the guiding objectives that reflect values and priorities established during an inclusive public process.
- Opposing construction of a new hotel on Monterey Bay at Sand City.
- Obtaining funding for returning rail service to the Peninsula.
- Assisting and encouraging the formation of local citizen-based watershed organizations such as the Carmel River Watershed Council and the Garrapata Creek Watershed Council.
- Acting as the Monterey County representative to the statewide task force on Sudden Oak Death.
- Acting as the Monterey County representative to FishNet 4c, an organization sponsored by NOAA Fisheries to improve compliance with rules protecting threatened steelhead trout.
- Preserving the local economy by working to keep agricultural lands in production.

Statewide environmental leaders such as Mike Reilly, chair of the California Coastal Commission, and Fred Keeley, endorse Potter.

### Sierra Club cruises to benefit political candidates

The Sierra Club is offering four cruises to Channel Islands National Park with a park ranger to lead hikes on each island and help identify the animal and plant life.

All cruises depart from Santa Barbara aboard the 68' boat Truth.

#### Cruise dates:

March 26-28: San Miguel, Santa Rosa and Santa Cruz Islands, \$480.

April 3: Santa Cruz Island, \$125.

April 17-18: San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands, \$320.

August 26-31: All 5 islands, \$725.

To make a reservation, send a check for \$100 payable to Sierra Club California PAC to Joan Jones Holtz, 11826 The Wye St., El Monte, CA 91732. For more information contact 626-443-0706 or jholtzhl@aol.com.

## NEWS CLIPS

### Would you wear a rainforest?

Co-op America's "Woodwise Consumer Guide" has found a surprise in our closets: wood products. Rayon, Tencel, and acetate are made from virgin wood pulp. Much of our rayon comes from developing countries, such as Indonesia, where environmental laws are weak. You just might want to switch to silk, wool, linen, recycled fleece, organic cotton, and hemp. Buying used clothes and donating your old clothes to the needy or selling them at a consignment store are good ways to recycle.

### Bad air days

EPA data on air quality in the United States list five California cities as the highest ranking in the number of days of unhealthy air quality (total for 2000 to 2002). Riverside/San Bernadino topped the list with 445 days of unhealthy air followed by Fresno with 421, Bakersfield with 409, Los Angeles/Long Beach with 255, and Sacramento with 163. Also in the top 50 nationwide were San Diego with 82 unhealthy air days, Orange County with 81, Ventura with 67, San Jose with 49 and Oakland with 40.

California is home to 10 of the top 50 metro areas with the greatest number of bad air days, more than any other state. And while our air quality is generally good here on the central coast, remember, our pollution blows east.

### Reason to take the train

The U.S. Department of Transportation reports that almost 43,000 people were killed in traffic collisions in 2002. That's more people killed each month than died from the attack on the World Trade Center Towers.

### Mercury threat

On December 10th, the Bush administration joined 45 states warning Americans not to eat fish with high mercury levels that can cause birth defects and learning disabilities. But days later, the administration said it wanted to give power plants permission to shower more mercury onto our lakes and streams for

10 years longer than the law allows.

There is a better way. The Bush Administration should enforce clean air and clean water laws; hold polluters responsible for the damage they do; and create jobs and clean up our environment by investing in modern technology, energy efficiency, and renewable energy sources like wind and solar power to create a clean and affordable energy future.

### Clean up duty

The Superfund clean-up program ran out of polluter-contributed funds in October 2003 leaving taxpayers to pick up the tab for polluting industries. George W. Bush is the first president to refuse to push for renewal of the polluter-pays tax since Ronald Reagan signed the superfund reauthorization into law in 1986.

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# Transit - highway rules unfair

Brookings Institution notes Federal transportation policy favors highway construction

by Debbie Bulger

A report released in December by the Brookings Institution confirms what transportation reform advocates have learned from their experience in the field: there is in fact an unlevel playing field between transit and highway projects.

Authored by Edward Beimborn and Robert Puentes, the report, "Highways and Transit: Leveling the Playing Field in Federal Transportation Policy," documents that transit and highways are treated very differently in federal policy, law and regulations. Highways are given a big leg up.

If highways had to be built according to procedures required of transit:

- Only 50% of their capital costs would be paid from federal sources instead of 80 to 90%.
- They would need a congressional "sponsor" who would help secure scarce funds.
- Local governments would have to demonstrate they could pay for their share and could operate and maintain the highways.
- Highway projects would have to compete with police, fire, education and other programs for funding. In lean budget years, highways could be closed some of the time to save money.

If transit rules applied to highways, highway construction would be subject to intense political scrutiny and some cities, states and metropolitan areas would never be able to build any highways, even if the public wanted them very much. Only a few highway segments could begin construction each

year.

Given the uneven playing field documented by this report, it's a miracle that we have any transit in this country at all.

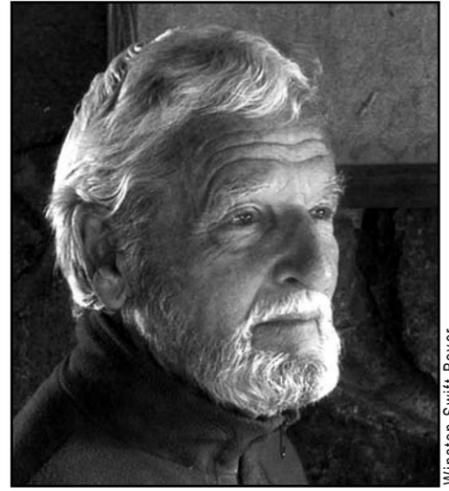
To remedy the inequity between highway and transit regulations, the authors recommend the following:

- Require the same land use guidelines for highway construction as for transit projects. Currently the federal government will only support transit projects where land use policies provide for efficient development patterns.
- Require cost-effectiveness procedures for highway expenditures. Currently there is no requirement for cost-effectiveness for highways. As has been observed, "an empty bus is bad; an empty highway is good."
- Implement peer comparisons for highway projects as is required of transit projects to encourage use of best practices.
- Additional recommendations for leveling the playing field are included in this well-referenced report.

Communities should not be faced with the choice of an effective transit project that requires mostly local funding or a highway project that is mostly funded from state and federal sources. The double standard for highway and transit projects heavily favors the most polluting and least efficient form of transportation. The Sierra Club favors the most energy and land conserving transportation modes. A level playing field between highways and transit would go far to achieving this goal.

To view the report visit [www.brookings.edu/urban](http://www.brookings.edu/urban).

## Sam Hopkins dies at 89



Winston Swift Boyer

Long-time Sierra Club member Samuel Hopkins died peacefully on December 30, 2003 of pneumonia. He was 89. Sam was born in San Francisco and educated on the East Coast, attending St. George's in Rhode Island and Yale University. As a young man, he was drafted into the army where he served 5 years during World War II including several months spent in Germany as a prisoner of war.

In 1947, he met his future wife, Nancy on a Sierra Club backpacking trip in the High Sierra. A year later, they married and moved into a home Sam and a neighbor had built on Partington Ridge in Big Sur. The Hopkins raised five children, dividing their time between Big Sur and another home in Carmel Valley. Throughout his long and active life, Sam pursued his passions for fishing, hunting, woodcutting, bicycling and skin-diving for abalone.

An avid hiker, known for his fast and light style, Sam was often seen walking the trails of the Ventana and Garland Park. Close friends fondly remember him as appearing in the wilderness as a bronzed Greek god so radiant was he in these surroundings. Locally, Sam and his wife were ardent conservationists and community leaders who supported many worthwhile causes. Nancy died in 2001. Sam is survived by his five children: Jory Hopkins of Mucuge, Brazil; Darien Raistrick of Los Alamos, New Mexico; Heidi Hopkins, of Lee Vining, California; Craig Hopkins, of Big Sur; Kip Hopkins, of Carmel Valley; and three grandchildren.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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**TREASURER.** Volunteer Treasurer for the Santa Cruz County Group. Duties include producing financial reports, making deposits, paying bills and attending Santa Cruz Executive Committee meetings. It may be possible to share these responsibilities with another volunteer. Computer and email skills a plus. Call Leda Beth, 426-4453.

**WEBMASTER.** Volunteer needed to update the Ventana Chapter web site ([www.ventana.org](http://www.ventana.org)). Regular updates 6 times per year plus new content as needed. HTML and web publishing experience required. Call Leda Beth, 426-4453.

**TAKE MINUTES** at Sierra Club meetings once a month. We are looking for a capable, computer-literate volunteer who can take, transcribe and distribute minutes for an evening meeting once a month. Limited time commitment. Contact Leda Beth, 426-4453.

**DO YOU BIKE** to school or work? Tell us about your experiences. What got you started? How often do you bike? Email [dfbulger@cruzio.com](mailto:dfbulger@cruzio.com). Include your phone number and full name.

**HOW DO YOU** reduce your driving? The Editor wants to know. Call 457-1036 or email [dfbulger@cruzio.com](mailto:dfbulger@cruzio.com).

## Moving?

Please fill out and mail the change of address form on page 15.

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## Ventana Wilderness Alliance Protecting the Northern Santa Lucia

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Las Tiendas Building, Ocean Avenue between Dolores and San Carlos, Carmel

Mailing Address – The Ventana Chapter, P.O. Box 5667, Carmel, CA, 93921, e-mail:ventana@mbay.net

Phone – 624-8032 Fax - 624-3371 (Santa Cruz Group Phone – 426-4453) Website:www.ventana.sierraclub.org

#### Sierra Club Bookstore

Manager	Gil Gilbreath	24351 San Juan Rd.	Carmel, CA 93923	624-7501
Buyer	Mary Gale	25430 Telarana Way	Carmel, CA 93923	626-3565
Treasurer	Bruce Rauch	2655 Walker Ave.	Carmel, CA 93923	626-9213
Volunteer Chair	Rita Summers	P.O. Box 646	Pacific Grove, CA 93950	655-2526

#### Chapter Executive Committee

Chapter Chair	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046
Vice Chair	D'Anne Albers	P.O. Box 2532	Carmel, CA 93921	624-7717
Admin Chair/Sec	Mary Gale	25430 Telarana Way	Carmel, CA 93923	626-3565
Treasurer	Stephanie Kearns	740 30th Ave. #67	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	475-1308
Other Members	Larry Espinosa	19240 Reavis Way	Salinas, CA 93907	663-2753
	David Epel	25847 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-3137
	Alan Church	1251 Josselyn Cyn Rd.	Monterey, CA 93940	375-6138
	Joel Weinstein	140 Carmel Riviera Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-5586
	Julie Engell	15040 Charter Oak Blvd.	Prunedale, CA 93907	633-8709
	Marilyn Beck	528 Crocker Ave.	Pacific Grove, CA 93950	372-6860
	Gudrun Beck	23765 Spectacular Bid	Monterey, CA 93940	655-8586

#### Coastal Chair

D'Anne Albers	P.O. Box 2532	Carmel, CA 93921	624-7717
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#### Conservation Committee

Co-Chairs	Gudrun Beck	23765 Spectacular Bid	Monterey, CA 93940	655-8586
	Gillian Taylor	52 La Rancheria	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-0298

#### Forestry Committee

Chair	Robin Way	748 Pine Ave.	Pacific Grove, CA 93950	646-8649
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#### Local Wilderness Committee

Chair	Steve Chambers	319 Caledonia St.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	425-1787
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#### Membership Committee

Chair	Joel Weinstein	140 Carmel Riviera Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-5586
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#### NC/NRCC Reps.

George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	335-7748
Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	423-8567
Mary Gale	1310 Prima Vera #122	Salinas, CA 93901	422-6970
Lorri Lockwood	P.O. Box 264	Big Sur, CA 93920	667-2564

#### Outings Chair

Anneliese Suter	9500 Center St. #53	Carmel, CA 93923	624-1467
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#### Population Committee

Chair	Harriet Mitteldorf	942 Coral Dr.	Pebble Beach, CA 93953	373-3694
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#### Political Committee

Chair	Terry Hallock	P.O. Box 486	Carmel, CA 93921	625-1477
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#### Pot Luck Committee

Chair	Marion Chilson	6060 Brookdale Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	624-3510
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#### Sierra Club Council

Delegate	David Epel	25847 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	625-3137
Alternate	Rita Dalessio	16 Via Las Encinas	Carmel Valley, CA 93924	659-7046

#### Transportation Committee

Chair	Neil Agron	26122 Carmel Knolls Dr.	Carmel, CA 93923	624-3038
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#### Ventana Editor

Debbie Bulger	1603 King Street	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	457-1036
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#### Pajaro River Committee

Co-Chairs	Lois Robin	4701 Nova Dr.	Santa Cruz, 95062	464-1184
	JoAnn Baumgartner	P.O. Box 1766.	Watsonville, CA 95077	722-5556

### Santa Cruz County Group of the Ventana Chapter

Group Office: 1001 Center St., Santa Cruz, near Actors' Theatre Website:www.ventana.sierraclub.org

Mailing Address: Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group, P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0604

Phone: 831-426-HIKE (426-4453), Fax: (831) 426-LEAD (426-5323), e-mail: scscrg@crzuzio.com

#### Executive Committee

Co-Chair	George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	335-7748
Co-Chair	Marilyn Demos Fravel	51 Ocean St.	Davenport, CA 95017	458-1959
Treasurer	Keith Wood	606 Calle del Sol.	Aptos, CA 95003	684-1404
Other members	Patricia Matejcek	P.O. Box 2067	Santa Cruz, CA 95063	423-8567
	Kristen Raugust	454 Swanton Road	Davenport, CA 95017	423-8566
	Kelly Hildner	139 Peach Terrace	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	457-2689
	Renée Flower	1747 King Street	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	427-2202
	Lois Robin	4701 Nova Dr.	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	464-1184
	Irvin E. Lindsey	150 Lions Field Dr.	Santa Cruz, CA 95065	423-5925
	Kevin Collins	P.O. Box 722	Felton, CA 95018	335-4196

#### Growth Management Committee

Chair	Kelly Hildner	139 Peach Terrace	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	457-2689
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#### Conservation Committee

Chair	Marilyn Fravel, interim,	51 Ocean St.	Davenport, CA 95017	458-1959
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#### Forestry Task Force

Chair	Jodi Frediani	1015 Smith Grade	Santa Cruz, CA 95060	426-1697
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#### Membership Committee

Chair	Marilyn Demos Fravel	51 Ocean St.	Davenport, CA 95017	458-1959
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#### Outings Chair

George Jammal	601 Manzanita Ave.	Felton, CA 95018	335-7748
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#### Transportation Committee

Chair	Jim Danaher	340 Soquel Ave. #205	Santa Cruz, CA 95062	427-2727
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#### Water Resources Committee

Co-Chairs	Carol Hamilton	2220 Pleasant Valley Rd.	Aptos, CA 95003	724-2059
	Ned Spencer	4778 SoquelCreek Rd.	Soquel, CA 95073	476-9197

#### Political Committee

Chair	vacant
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## MEETING SCHEDULE

<p><b>Ventana Chapter (Monterey Co.)</b></p> <p>Information: 624-8032</p> <p><b>Executive Committee:</b> Last Thursday of the month; Call for meeting place &amp; time.</p> <p><b>Conservation Committee:</b> Alternate 3rd Saturdays, 2:00 p.m. Beck's house: 23765 Spectacular Bid, Monterey. Take Hwy 68 to York Rd. to Spectacular Bid. Saturday, March 20 at 2:00 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Santa Cruz Regional Group</b></p> <p>Information: 426-HIKE (426-4453) Meeting place: Sierra Club Office 1001 Center St, Santa Cruz, Suite 11</p> <p><b>Executive Committee:</b> Wednesday, February 11, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 10, at 7:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>Conservation Committee:</b> Wednesday, March 3, at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, April 7, at 7:00 p.m.</p>
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**The VENTANA**  
MAGAZINE OF THE VENTANA CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB



**FEB, MAR,  
APR  
OUTINGS**

**Come on an outing!**

Debbie Bulger

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# California's oak woodlands need your help!

by Pat Veasant

Close your eyes and try to picture California in your mind. What do you see? The snow-capped Sierra Nevada? Towering redwoods shrouded in mist? The steep cliffs and crashing waves of the Big Sur coastline? Or perhaps golden hills studded with gray-green oak trees under a cyanic sky? Oak woodlands are one of California's signature landscapes—a natural icon of the Golden State.

Oak woodlands are the richest terrestrial wildlife habitat in California. Over 330 species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians depend upon them. These woodlands are also home to hundreds of species of plants and play a critical role in protecting soils, regulating water flow in watersheds, and maintaining water quality in streams and rivers.

In the last 250 years, California has

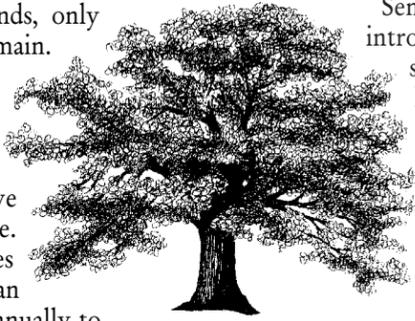
lost 90% of its majestic valley oaks and one third of all species of oaks combined. Of an estimated 10-12 million acres of original oak woodlands, only some seven million acres remain.

Most are degraded to some degree, and only about 4% enjoy protected status.

Oak woodlands continue to be impacted by intensive urbanization and agriculture. The California Resources Agency estimates that more than 14,000 acres of oaks are lost annually to development, rangeland "improvement," and conversion to more intensive agricultural uses such as vineyards.

Because oaks are considered "non-commercial" species, they are not subject to state laws which regulate timber harvest. Local protections through General Plans, resolutions, ordinances, and vol-

untary efforts generally have failed to slow the loss of California's oak woodlands.



nia's counties to prepare Oak Woodland Management plans or ordinances that require mitigation for the loss of oak woodlands and specify minimum mitigation measures. Unfortunately, SB 711 was bottled up in the Assembly Appropriations Committee because of opposition from development

Senate Bill 711, introduced in the state legislature last year by Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Los Angeles), would require California's counties to prepare Oak

and agriculture interests. The author intends to move it out of committee and to a vote in 2004.

SB 711 is a common-sense approach to protecting California's vanishing oak woodlands that has the flexibility to allow development and agricultural activities to continue in areas where oaks occur.

California's oak woodlands need and deserve protection. If our children and grandchildren are to enjoy California's unique oak-studded landscape, then it is incumbent upon us to take the steps necessary to preserve them now. Please call or write your legislators and ask them to support SB 711, or join Sierra Club California's Legislative Action Network (<http://cal-legalert.sierraclubaction.org>) to receive alerts on this and other important state legislation.

See related article on p. 11.



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