Coastal guardians honored p. 4
**Taking matters into our own hands**

Approximately five years and five million tax dollars after it launched a wildly heralded public process to create a new General Plan Update (GPU), a majority on the Monterey County Board of Supervisors decided that the Draft General Plan (DGP) was “divisive.” The majority of the Supervisors agreed with their big campaign contributors that the plan should be scuttled. And so, the DGP, and the five million tax dollars wound up in the proverbial wastebasket, along with the staff that had crafted the plan, the public process, and about ten million dollars worth of public participation, including that of the Ventana Chapter.

To replace the irreplaceable, the Supervisors proposed that its overworked General Counsel and understaffed Planning Department craft a new DGP. This process is expected, at best, to take approximately 16 months and cost from 1.5 to 5 million additional tax dollars.

A group of concerned citizens, including the Chapter, under the umbrella title of Coalition to Protect Housing, Farmland, Air and Water has opted to take matters into their own hands. They will hold a series of public Community Forums, throughout the County, to carry the process forward. They will build upon the work that has already been done by the public and the GPU staff and then present to the Supervisors a DGP that complies with the original guiding objectives crafted and approved by 80% of the general public. They intend to have this document ready before the end of the year, at no additional cost to taxpayers.

Reception for this citizens’ plan will depend primarily on the Supervisors win in the 4th District. If Jane Parker wins, the Community DGP has a reasonable chance to be adopted by the Supervisors. If Jerry Smith wins, the Community DGP probably has no chance. This is one important reason why the Ventana Chapter is supporting Jane Parker.

If the Community DGP is not adopted, the Chapter and the Coalition will consider all its options. We are not willing to allow the developers, the agribusiness industry and other special interests to pave over Monterey County for financial gain. Please support this process and participate in the Community Forums in your area.

—Rita Dalessio

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**Activist search**

**We’re looking for a few good activists**

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

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

**Nominating Committee Members**

**Ventana Chapter**

Election Chair-Mary Gale 626-3565  
Gillian Taylor 659-0298 
Rod Mills 659-3745 
John Dalessio 659-7046

**Santa Cruz Group:**

Marilyn Fravel 458-1959 
Marilyn Hummel 426-3352 
Shandra Dobrovolsky 477-1981 
George Jammal 335-7748 
Kevin Collins 335-4196

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**From the Editor**

**We are so lucky**

I’m recently back from three weeks in Scotland. (I take my vacations between issues). There were many wonderful things in that country, but what they lack is an abundance of freshly-picked fruit and vegetables.

Cruising around Scottish supermarkets, I saw oranges from Spain, onions from eastern Europe, dates from Iran, string beans from France—produce from countries far and wide not counting the hot house lettuce and tomatoes from Scotland. It rained a lot in Scotland. I imagine most crops would rot on the ground if they were planted outside.

I wonder how many of us here on the Central Coast realize how lucky we are. Here lettuce, strawberries, artichokes, apples, plums, sugar snap beans and vine ripe tomatoes are grown along with a veritable cornucopia of other veggies and fruits almost at our doorsteps.

Our produce is not picked in a faraway land, then shipped hundreds or thousands of miles arriving like a careworn traveler with jet lag. At the farmer’s market we can buy corn that was just picked this morning and has not lost its sweetness.

We are especially blessed with an abundance of organic produce. Instead of having to purchase strawberries that have exposed farm workers to dangerous pesticides, we can choose guilt-free organic berries.

We are so lucky

**• Local produce tastes better and is better for you.** Food grown in your own community was probably picked within the past day or two and does not suffer the loss of nutrients of foods which have traveled from far away. Locally-grown food has the added benefit of requiring less energy to get it to market.

**• Local food supports local farm families.**

**• Local food protects genetic diversity.** Instead of buying the produce that survives shipping the best, we can choose from the huge number of varieties that are grown locally.

**• Farms around communities preserve open space.**

There are added benefits from buying as much organic produce as possible. Every time we make a purchase, we support our values. Instead of just expressing our concern about farm worker pesticide exposure, we can buy produce that does not expose people to harmful chemicals. And of course, when we eat organic foods, we have fewer concerns about accumulating herbicides, insecticides, and fungicides in our bodies. We know we are feeding ourselves and our families the best.

The Sierra Club Sustainable Consumption Committee recommends a locally-grown, plant-based diet with an emphasis on organic produce. To learn more visit www.sierraclub.org/sustainable_consumption/

—Debbie Bulger
Special backpack leaders

Having hiked extensively at the Pinnacles, Yosemite, and in West Africa, I assumed that I was prepared for the Memorial Day two-day backpacking trip through part of the Ventana Wilderness. After all, I had done the Big Sur Power Walk (21 miles) seven times.

Five of us began together, Jerry, Kevin, Steve, our gentle leader, Esperanza, my energetic friend, and I. In the first five miles it became evident that I would slow the group.

Steve helped me tighten my boot laces, checked my pack for fit. Esperanza did a fine job of maintaining her patience with me. When we neared Redwood Camp, Steve accepted my offer of the peanut logs I had made for everyone. He suggested mildly that it would be wise to bring less food in the future. He was gracious and never angry, asking about possible blisters.

Roots and rocks captured every foothold. I saw, however, the first yucca in bloom I’ve seen in twenty years, and the madrone were beautiful. It was like another world; at one point we were thirteen miles from any road. I revelled in the beauty and silence.

We arrived very late at our campsite, and Steve accepted my proffered orange. Ten minutes later he offered another orange, from his own pack, to Jerry, and I realized that he had simply wanted to lighten my pack.

Never did Steve or Esperanza, also a Sierra Club leader, chastise me. They both were encouraging, kind, firm. On the second day Esperanza and I hiked for 13 hours to reach the Big Sur ranger station. It was a long, hot, and at times scary day. Steve actually went ahead and brought back additional water.

I am grateful to Steve Legnard and Esperanza Hernandez for their guidance and strength. They are both well-trained, gentle, humorous people. Regardless of what happens to the little sight which remains to me, I will carry with me always the vision of the majestic madrone and the yucca. Now I am seeking some form of survival camp for the visually limited, so that this remarkable experience will not be my last foray into the Ventana.

—Kary Shender
Salinas

Chapter endorses
Jane Parker for
Monterey County
Supervisor, District 4

Over 15 community and environmental groups (including the Sierra Club) calling themselves the Coalition to Protect Housing, Farmland, Air and Water are working to keep the public involved with the General Plan Update (GPU). Over 250 public meetings had already been held for the existing draft of the GPU, which has now been discarded.

Appalled by the Board of Supervisors’ decision to stop work on the GPU and to ask the County Counsel and the Planning Department director to draft a new version, the Coalition is planning a series of open public forums led by a professional facilitator and supported by a professional planner. The Planning and Conservation League Foundation (PCLF) will serve as a sponsor represented by their Executive Director, Fred Keeley, our former Assemblymember.

“We have reached out to thousands of community members who have told us that they want a say in how the GPU is developed,” said Keeley. “The PCLF is sponsoring the community forums to ensure that the public has a continued opportunity to participate in the process.”

The Coalition includes the following groups: Ventana Chapter of the Sierra Club; Landwatch; Friends, Artists, and Neighbors of Elkhorn Slough; the Monterey County Chapter of the California Native Plant Society; Prunedale Preservation Alliance; Save Our Shores; Highway 68 Coalition; and the Carmel Valley Association. The Coalition will adhere to the 12 Guiding Objectives that were drawn up with public input, supported by 80% of the people and previously approved by the Board of Supervisors. These objectives provide protection for farmland by directing growth to urban centers. Other guiding objectives protect ridgelines, sensitive species, and scenic values; and tie development to water supply and road capacity.

These objectives were undermined by developers and their lawyers, even though the latest version of the GPU still allowed for extreme growth between two and three times the amount of development the state says is required to house our population for the life of the plan.

Chapter members will be notified by postcard of meetings in their areas. Please consider attending these valuable planning sessions. It is up to the public to ensure that the communities’ priorities are reflected in this General Plan Update, which will be the guiding document for Monterey County for the next 20 years. For dates of the community forums, please go to the website of the Coalition to Protect Housing, Farmland, Air and Water at www.8of10monterey.com or call 582-9375.

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www.cal-legalact.sierraclubaction.org

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

The post office charges us 70 cents each if they handle the address change. Please help the Club by using the coupon on page 15.

Letters

The Ventana welcomes letters. Send to:
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
The Ventana, 1603 King Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
or email to dbulger@cruzio.com
Please include a phone number with your letter. Anonymous letters are not accepted. Letters may be edited for length.
Coastal guardians receive Sierra Club national awards

Ken and Gabrielle Adelman win Ansel Adams Award

Corralitos residents Ken and Gabrielle Adelman will receive the Sierra Club's prestigious Ansel Adams Award for photography which furthers the cause of conservation at the Club's National Banquet in September. The Adelmans have personally taken over 12,000 aerial photographs of the California coast and created an online website of the collection. Gabrielle Adelman pilots a helicopter as Ken takes the pictures. Ken's virtuosity in the high-tech world has enabled him to transform a vision into a valuable public resource.

Their detailed, online visual survey instantly became an indispensable tool for coastal activists, scientists, students, and environmentalists. "The pressure for development along the California coast is unrelenting," noted Gary Patton, Executive Director of LandWatch Monterey County. "Thanks to the Adelmans, concerned persons everywhere can now see what that development has done and how much of this spectacular coast is still worth protecting."

Mark Massara, Director of Sierra Club Coastal Programs praised the Adelmans for donating every aspect of the project. "As campaign staff and volunteers travel up and down the coast recruiting Sierra Club activists for statewide and local coastal protection efforts, we are ever grateful for the gift that the Adelmans have provided to conservationists free of any charge," said Massara.

The project was created in 2002 after Susan Jordan of the California Coastal Protection Network decried the lack of an aerial database to use in coastal protection. When Jordan was unable to generate foundation funding for the project, Massara introduced her to the Adelmans. A year later the Corralitos couple had developed the process they would use to create this extraordinary resource including determining the optimum altitude, angle and frame speed for the digital photos and developing the manner in which the pictures would be made available to the public.

The images are easy to download in a choice of file sizes for various uses. Revenues generated by for-profit users are donated to the California Coastal Protection Network for coastal conservation work. The visual record became even more valuable when a collection of more than 5,800 aerial photographs from 1972 was recently added to the website. The magic of the digital age has now allowed easy comparison between current images and the photos taken before the California Coastal Act was passed.

To view this extraordinary collection of photographs, visit www.CaliforniaCoastline.org.

Peter Douglas honored with Distinguished Service Award

Peter Douglas, Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission since 1985, will be honored with a Distinguished Service Award at the Club National Banquet in September. Douglas has been active in coastal protection for four decades and was coauthor of Proposition 20, a citizens’ initiative that established the Coastal Commission. He was principal author of the 1976 Coastal Act that made permanent California’s coastal management program.

Douglas earned a BA in psychology followed by a law degree in 1969 from UCLA. He has written extensively about coastal management and environmental stewardship. A founding member of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Science Advisory Board, he was reappointed to another three-year term in July 2001. He is the only non-scientist on that board.

As Executive Director of the California Coastal Commission, Douglas manages a 165-staff State agency mandated to balance use and conservation of resources along California’s 1,100-mile coastline. Under his leadership, the Coastal Commission has expanded public access to the coast for all, with notable successes at Pebble Beach and numerous sites in southern California.

Douglas successfully led a legal challenge to the federal government’s action to automatically renew the 36 offshore oil and gas leases off the California Coast. He has worked to protect habitat from the Oregon border to Mexico. "Perhaps Peter’s greatest accomplishment is the building of an agency staffed by professionals who independently apply the Coastal Act free from political pressure," observed Susan Jordan of the California Coastal Protection Network.

The coast of California would look very different were it not for the dedication and hard work of Douglas’s lifetime of service influencing public policy and educating residents to protect the coast. His most enduring legacy is what you don’t see: the hotels not built on sensitive coastal dunes, the golf courses not constructed on windswept bluffs, the scenic views not blocked.

Sierra Club Awards Banquet

Reserve your place now!

Saturday, Sept. 11, 6:00 p.m.
Holiday Inn Select, Kearney Street, San Francisco
For more information call Patricia Matejcek, (Santa Cruz) 423-8567 or Rita Dalessio, (Monterey) 659-7046.

Lovers’ Point from the air
Widening Highway 1 in Santa Cruz: an expensive mistake

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission’s Plan to widen Highway 1 assumes that it will reduce traffic congestion and allow us to move more freely between Santa Cruz and Watsonville. This wishful thinking ignores the Commission’s own consultant’s estimate of only a two to three-minute decrease in commute time in that corridor. It also ignores the recent study by the City of Santa Cruz that states that it is impossible to build our way out of congestion.

There is no way to build roads fast enough to keep up with the growth in both the number of cars and the miles they travel.

Besides the fact that widening won’t solve the problem, there are many other reasons to vote on November 2 against spending more than half a billion dollars of our sales tax money on this quixotic quest. It doesn’t make sense to spend half a billion dollars on the widening project when the Environmental Impact Report for it has not been completed. We don’t know for sure what the negative environmental impacts of the project might be. But we do know the following:

- Residents downhill of the increased exhaust fumes from two more gridlocked lanes would suffer greater exposure to carcinogens and asthma-causing pollutants. A recent study showed that risk for childhood cancers increased sixfold in households adjacent to roads carrying 20,000 or more vehicles/day. (Highway 1 carries over 100,000 vehicles/day.)
- More vehicles on the highway means more vehicles will be traveling to and from the highway on our local streets such as Soquel, Morrisssey, Water, High, Bay and Mission Streets.
- Using so much of the public’s local tax money to widen Highway 1 makes it more difficult to fund other needs such as schools, law enforcement, parks, UCSC access—even earthquake recovery.
- The area around the 41st Avenue and Bay Avenue interchanges in Capitola will be transformed into a 12-lane wide sea of concrete, including planned new on and off ramps.
- Construction will not be completed until after 2017. During construction, congestion will surely be worse than it is now.
- Noise from the highway will increase with more capacity. Extensive soundwalls will bounce this noise into new, unknown areas.
- Highway 1 is a State Highway, with extensive non-local use. Its widening should be funded using state and federal funds, not with local sales tax dollars.
- Is it really worth half a billion dollars to shorten commute times by 2 or 3 minutes? We think not.
- The Campaign for Sensible Transportation, a local group, is leading a strong effort to defeat the ballot measure. The Santa Cruz Group of the Sierra Club is a participant in this campaign. The goal of the campaign is to achieve a more than 50% NO vote on the ballot measure to put this fiscally irresponsible idea to rest and allow the county to pursue more sensible transportation strategies. The Campaign needs your help; our opposition is well funded.

To learn more about why widening Highway 1 will not work, visit http://sensibletransportation.org. To volunteer or contribute in other ways, call the Sierra Club office, 426-4453.

The Sierra Club supports transportation policy and systems that minimize the impacts on and use of land, airspace and waterways, minimize the consumption of limited resources, including fuel, and reduce pollutant and noise emissions. To read the complete transportation policy of the Club visit www.sierraclub.org/policy/conservation/trans.asp.

Bush Administration attacks Roadless Area Conservation Rule

One of the most popular conservation policies in American history was dealt a crippling blow with the Bush administration’s decision to abandon the landmark Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Bush administration has proposed a convoluted process that will leave America’s last wild forests open to destructive commercial logging and road building. This controversial decision forces Governors to petition the Department of Agriculture to protect their wild, roadless National Forests. The public comment period officially began in July and continues through September 14, 2004.

Already, 440,000 miles of roads are carved into America’s National Forests. The wildly popular Roadless Rule helped protect our remaining wild forests and the clean water, wildlife habitat and outstanding backcountry recreation opportunities from more taxpayer-subsidized commercial logging. The Roadless Rule was developed over three years of public hearings and scientific analysis. To date more than 2 million Americans have commented on the original rule, with 95 percent supporting the strongest wild forests protections.

This policy change is the Bush administration’s latest effort to reduce or eliminate decades of National Forest protection and increase spending to benefit timber companies.

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Sierra Club Events

Friday, August 13

Potluck/Slides: Wild Alaska
This slide show will cover the second half of Don Nielsen’s Alaska trip 2 years ago. The potluck begins at 6:30 p.m. Bring food to share and your own plate, cup, utensils, and serving utensils. We love home-cooked food, but store-bought items (minimum value $4) make great contributions too. For directions call George, 335-7748.

Tuesday, August 24

Potluck/Slides - Mars & Saturn
Join Milos Radakovitch for a program on the new discoveries about Mars and Saturn. Radakovitch has taught astronomy and physics among other subjects and is Program Director for BAY NET, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Volunteer Network. BAY NET docents interact with visitors throughout the Sanctuary and provide information and education.

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 Rd.; turn south at the last stop light at Carmel Center Pl.; park in the lighted area behind Safeway and enter the side entrance of the mall. For more information call Marion Chisolm, 624-3510.

Friday, August 27

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

Sunday, August 29

Sierra Club Picnic
Let’s get more acquainted with each other! Bring your own meat, fish, or veggie burger, utensils and $ for charcoal. I’ll start a list on what you can bring to share. We’ll have games and sports. Please call with activity suggestions. Special invitation to Santa Cruz members. 9:00 a.m. at Toro Park, call leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Friday, September 10

Potluck/Slides: China’s Yunnan Province
This slide show will cover the last part of my trip to China in 2003. 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.

Saturday, September 18

20th Annual Coastal Clean-up
Volunteer this year. Last year almost 3000 volunteers collected 13,000 lbs. of trash and recyclables from over 46 miles of coastline in just three hours!

FREE Worm Workshops
Learn how worms can eat your food scraps and make beautiful compost for your garden. FREE workshop for Santa Cruz County residents, 1-3:00 p.m. Optional worm bin $15. Call to reserve worm bin. Sponsored by Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors. Call Karin Grobe, 427-3452.

Saturday, August 21, Triangle Park, Playa Blvd. at Vista Drive, La Selva Beach

Sunday, September 19, Quail Hollow Co. Park, 800 Quail Hollow Rd., Felton

Sunday, October 10, Scarborough Gardens, 33 El Pueblo Rd., Scotts Valley

Saturdays

Garland Ranch hikes
The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District docents lead hikes at Garland Ranch Park every Saturday and invite Sierra Club members to join them. An updated list of all hikes may be found on their website: www.mprrpd.org.

Saturdays (see dates below)

Habitat restoration — Watsonville
Second and fourth Saturdays each month. 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

R AT I N G S

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; slight elevation gain; easy pace.
Moderate: 5-10 miles; up to 2,000’ gain; boots; better than average fitness required.
Strenuous: May involve off-trail hiking; demanding pace; for experienced hikers in good condition only.

M E E T I N G  P L A C E S

DIRECTIONS:
Big Sur Land Trust Parking Lot: 3785 Via Nona Marie, Carmel. From Hwy. 1, heading S in Carmel, turn left on Rio Rd., left on Via Nona Marie, then left into the parking lot behind Monterey County Bank.

Albertson’s/Bagel Bakery: Heading south on Hwy. 1, pass through Monterey. One mile past the Ocean Ave. intersection, turn left on Carmel Valley Rd. Almost immediately, turn right at the light toward the stores. Albertson’s and Bagel Bakery are on the right.

Santa Cruz County Govt. Center: The large grey building at the corner of Ocean and Water in Santa Cruz. We meet at the corner of the parking lot 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 Fair 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 Ave.

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.

A U G U S T

Saturday, August 7
HIKE: CARMEL VALLEY TO JACKS PEAK
We will leave from Carmel Valley Road and hike up Roach Canyon to Jacks Peak. 6 miles, 1200’ elevation gain. Expect some brush and possible poison oak. Wear appropriate clothing. Call for details. Meet at Albertson’s at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Larry Parrish, 622-7455.

Sunday, August 8
HIKE: TIMBERTOP TO VENTANA INN
We will climb up from Hwy. 1 through meadows to Timbertop. Return along the Coast Ridge Rd. Short car shuttle. 8 miles, 2000’ elevation gain. Bring lots of water and lunch. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. Call for details. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, bmacgowan@hotmail.com or 510-215-9255.

Tuesday, August 10
SENIOR SAUNTER: FALL CREEK
3-mile shady hike in redwood forest, partly along the creek. Some moderate uphill. Trail rocky in places. We’ll lunch at the limestone kilns. After lunch, optional additional hiking. Hikers who do not want to do this part can wait at the kilns. No restrooms. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. before 9:30 a.m. or just before 10:00 a.m. at Felton Faire. To go direct, use parking lot on Empire Grade up from Hwy. 9. Wear hiking boots. Bring water, lunch and $3 car pool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Saturday, August 14
HIKE: FALL CREEK BY BUS
We’ll catch the 41 from downtown Santa Cruz to Bonny Doon and hike mostly downhill to Felton. 6 miles. We’ll take the 35 home. Meet on the 41 bus which leaves Metro station at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch, water and $3 for bus. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Sunday, August 15
HIKE: VINCENITE FLAT:
We’ll see beautiful redwoods and meadows, look down to the coast, listen to Hare Creek. Shade and sunshine. 11 miles with 2000’ elevation gain. One hour carpool down breathing hole. Bring water, food and wear good hiking shoes. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:30 a.m. Call for more information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, August 17
SENIOR SAUNTER: UCSB PARCOURS
Explore the woodlands, gullies, trails and bridges that once made up the Parcourse at UCSB. 2.5 mile fun, moderate hike. Good hiking shoes and hiking stick useful. Campus parking is $5 per car. You can purchase permit at kiosk on Bay Street. Must show license. Bring lunch, water, $2 carpool and share of parking. We’ll park in lot by the Theater/Glen. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. Call leader if you wish to go direct. Leader: Maureen Maynard, 336-5293.

Saturday, August 21
HIKE: EWOLDSEN TRAIL
Moderately strenuous 5-6 mile hike starting at Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park to panoramic viewpoint high above the ocean. Afterwards we’ll venture out to the waterfall. Bring hat, water, lunch, and $ 4 for hour-long carpool. Meet at Albertson’s at 10:00 a.m. Back to car around 5:00 p.m. Leader: Andrea Phelps, Andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

HIKE: POGONIP
Join Friends of the Pogonip for an all-day hike. We’ll walk from the top of Rio St. through the Pogonip and Cowell State Park to the San Lorenzo River (and maybe farther), with a chance to lug in the sand on the riverbank. Meet at the top of Spring St. in Santa Cruz at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch. You can park by the UCSC Carriage House (just up from the campus’ main entrance). Walk from the lot to the intersection of Hagar and Coolidge Drives, then follow the P.G.R.E. power line along the level graded track to the top of Spring St. Bus route 16 drops you off at about 9:17 a.m. See www.scmtd.com/maps/rt16.html for route information. Call leaders Celia and Peter Scott (423-0796) for details.

Sunday, August 22
HIKE: PICO BLANCO CAMP
Suspended 13 miles up steep and maybe overgrown trail. 1400’ elevation gain. Light long pants advised. Beautiful waterfall and swimming hole. Bring water, food, swimsuit, and $ for carpool. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

HIKE: POINT LOBOS
Strenuous 11 miles up steep and maybe overgrown trail. 1400’ elevation gain. Light long pants advised. Beautiful waterfall and swimming hole. Bring water, food, swimsuit, and $ for carpool. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

HIKE: POGOONIP
Join Friends of the Pogonip for an all-day hike. We’ll walk from the top of Rio St. through the Pogonip and Cowell State Park to the San Lorenzo River (and maybe farther), with a chance to lug in the sand on the riverbank. Meet at the top of Spring St. in Santa Cruz at 9:30 a.m. Bring lunch. You can park by the UCSC Carriage House (just up from the campus’ main entrance). Walk from the lot to the intersection of Hagar and Coolidge Drives, then follow the P.G.R.E. power line along the level graded track to the top of Spring St. Bus route 16 drops you off at about 9:17 a.m. See www.scmtd.com/maps/rt16.html for route information. Call leaders Celia and Peter Scott (423-0796) for details.

HIKE: PICO BLANCO CAMP
Suspended 13 miles up steep and maybe overgrown trail. 1400’ elevation gain. Light long pants advised. Beautiful waterfall and swimming hole. Bring water, food, swimsuit, and $ for carpool. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

HIKE: POBOONIP
Strenuous 11 miles up steep and maybe overgrown trail. 1400’ elevation gain. Light long pants advised. Beautiful waterfall and swimming hole. Bring water, food, swimsuit, and $ for carpool. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

COME HIKING WITH US!

PleaseRecycleThisPaperAgain

The Sierra Club/ Ventura Chapter Volume 43 Number 4, 2004 7
HIKE: BIG BASIN
From Park Headquarters we’ll hike 15 miles. Some uphill; mostly downhill. A fast and steady pace in order to catch the bus back to Santa Cruz at 4:00 or 6:30 p.m. See some of the most majestic redwoods in the state and three beautiful waterfalls. Bring lots of water and $3 for bus fare, wearing hiking boots. Meet at Santa Cruz Government Center at 7:45 a.m. Optional dinner in Santa Cruz after. Monterey people who want to carpool to S.C. call Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Tuesday, August 31
SENIOR SAUNTER: CAPITOLA
We’ll walk around colorful Capitola from Jade Street Park, up Wharf Rd., Rispin Mansion, and Soquel Crk. The hearty can walk up the 87-step grand staircase and do the Depot Hill Loop. Easy 3 miles, some uphill. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or go direct to Jade Street Park. Dress for weather. Bring lunch or eat at one of the restaurants on the Esplanade. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9941.

Saturday, September 11
HIKE: POST SUMMIT TO MT. MANUEL
Strenuous 15-mile hike in Big Sur. Car shuttle, leaving one car at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park. 2800’ elevation gain. Great views. Bring lots of water; no fill up spot. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. Call for more details. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, 510-215-9255 or bmgow@mac.com.

Sunday, September 12
HIKE: FALL CREEK
Explore an enchanted forest with redwoods, lovely bubbling stream, lime kiln, barrel mill, fish pond, and dancing springs. 7 miles. Bring lunch, water. Meet at Felton Faire at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Sheila Dunnaway, 336-2325.

Tuesday, September 14
SENIOR SAUNTER: LOVERS POINT
Walk from Lover’s Point south on the coastal path. We can turn back after 1.5 miles. Those who want to go further can walk to Point Pinos area. Choices for lunch are picnic tables at Lovers’ Point, The Timmy Restaurant, or the beach at Point Pinos. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at 10:30 a.m. at free street parking just past Lovers’ Point. Bring lunch or $, water, dress for weather and $5 carpool. Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Lake Tahoe Camping Trip
Friday - Monday, Sept. 3-6
(Read the write-up for more details)

Names
Street
City ZIP Eve Phone
# of vehicles @ $15 each =
# of members @ $10 each =
# of non-members @ $12 each =
# of kids 4-12 @ $5 each =
Total enclosed (make checks payable to Sierra Club) =
Departing day/time =
Returning day/time =
Carpooling information: 1/ we have room for riders
1/ 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:

Pouring our 1996 1st place Stout and 2000 Bronze Winning Summer Wheat
Restaurant open at 11:30 every day
Serving food and grog to 11 PM Weekdays & 12 AM Weekends
HIKE: EAST MOLERA

Lovely views of the coast, Pico Blanco, and the canyon of the South Fork of the Little Sur rear us for our steep climb towards Post Summit. 6 miles and 1,800’ elevation gain.
Bring lots of water, lunch, hat, sun protection and $ for the 45-minute carpool.
Rain cancels. Meet at 10:00 a.m. at Albertson’s. Back around 4:00 p.m.
Leader: Andrea Phelps, andrea_phelps@csumb.edu.

Tuesday, September 21

SENIOR SAUNTER: NISENE MARKS

Shady, 4-mile hike from the Porter Family Picnic area on the Loma Prieta Grade. At Porter House site, we'll head up the hill on the Bridge Creek Rd, to dry waterfall and then back to Porter Family Picnic area for lunch.
Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave, or just before 10:00 a.m. at Porter Family parking lot. Bring lunch, water, layered clothing, $2 carpool and share of entrance $.
Leader: Pat Herzog, 458-9841.

Wednesday, September 22

HIKE: WILDER RANCH

8 miles up onto the sea terraces above Hwy 1 on Wilder Ridge and Eucalyptus Loop trails. Great views. Fun history of the 100-year old dairy ranch with the first electricity from their Pelton water wheel. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Sears 41st Ave. 9:00 a.m. or at the parking lot near the gas station (or at 10:15 a.m. at the entrance to Louro Downs County Park near the gas station).
Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or just before 10:00 a.m. at Porter Family parking lot. Bring lunch, water, layered clothing, $2 carpool and share of entrance $.
Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Saturday, September 25

HIKE: NISENE MARKS

We’ll walk up to White’s Lagoon to see it during the dry season and return on the earthquake trail. 1800’ elevation gain and 9 miles.
Meet at the Government Center in Santa Cruz. Call for meeting time.
Leader: Nick Wyczoloff, 462-3101.

Saturday, October 2

HIKE: GARLAND RANCH/GARZAS CYN

We’ll run a shuttle and hike up the Mesa Trail above Watsonville on Hwy. 1. Lovely woods, views and meadows along the 2.5 mile hike with some uphill. For an afternoon treat, we’ll return home via Gizdich Farms. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or just beyond the park’s kiosk entrance about 10:00 a.m. by the restrooms. Bring lunch, water, light jacket, $4 carpool and “pie” money.
Leader: Joan Brohmer, 462-3803.

Saturday, September 29

HIKE: FILOLI ESTATE

A 2-mile hike in the wild land surrounding the 654-acre Filoli Estate on the eastern slope of the coast range and a walk through its herb, rose, and formal gardens. Built in 1915, the Bourns, who owned the Empire Gold Mine in Grass Valley, the mansion is 36,000 sq. ft. with a formal ballroom. Call leader to reserve your space. Tour is limited to 12 hikers. Entrance fee is $8. There is a small cafe in the visitors center for lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Avenue at 9:00 a.m. or in the parking lot of Filoli Estate, 86 Canada Road, Woodside, off Edgewood Dr. in Redwood City at 10:15 a.m.
Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

O C T O B E R

Saturday, October 2

HIKE: GARLAND RANCH/GARZAS CYN

We’ll run a shuttle and hike up the Mesa Trail to the pond and then down into Garzas Canyon and up and out on the Garzas Canyon Trail. 5 miles with 800’ elevation gain. Dress for trail-side poison oak. Bring lunch and water. Meet at Garland Ranch parking lot at 10:00 a.m. Leader: Charles Gagarin, (b) 659-1062, (w) 659-8009.

Sunday, October 3

SUNSET WALK: WEST CLIFF DR.

We’ll take the bus to do a one-way walk. Take the 3C bus to Delaware & Swanton and walk to Natural Bridges where we’ll meet at the upper parking lot at 6:15 p.m. We’ll walk west along Cliffs Dr. toward Lighthouse Field enjoying the sunset along the way. We’ll then walk across Lighthouse Field to Pelton & Lighthouse Aves. to catch the 3C again at 7:15 p.m. to go home. Bring bus $. See www.scmt.com/maps/rt3c.html for the 3C route.
Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Tuesday, October 5

SENIOR SAUNTER: BUTANO

This park with meandering creek and many redwoods is inland from Pescadero or Gazos Trail. We’ll park by the picnic tables and walk the road and Creek Trail. Shorter hike available or you can go farther. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or just before 10:00 a.m. at Shen’s Galley at Mission & King
Sts. Bring lunch, water, $4 carpool and share of entrance $. Leader: Pat Hertzog, 458-9841.

Saturday, October 9
HIKE: JUNIPERO SERRA PEAK
11-mile hike to the summit of Junipero Serra. Strenuous climb with 3800’ elevation gain. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Bagel Bakery. Call for more details. Leader: Betsy MacGowan, 510-215-9255 or bmacgowan@hotmail.com.

HIKE: PINNACLES CAVES
Let’s take advantage of this rare chance to visit the Bear Gulch caves. They are usually closed because of the breeding of the bats. The exact date will not be known until one week before the bats leave. Strenuous 12 miles with 1200’ elevation gain. Bring lunch, water, flashlight, carpool $, and wear good hiking boots. Optional dinner after. Call for more information. Leader: Esperanza Hernandez, 678-1968.

Saturday, October 9
HIKE & RIVER WALK: HENRY COWELL
We’ll cross the San Lorenzo River a few times and stop at the Observation Deck. Be prepared to take off your boots or wear ones that you don’t mind getting wet. A pair of sandals is a good idea. We’ll have the option of hiking or wading in the river for up to half a mile. Wear a swimsuit or keep a dry change of clothes and a towel in the car. 7 miles and 600’ elevation gain. Bring a snack and water and wear hiking boots. Meet at the Santa Cruz Government Center at 11:30 a.m. or at the Rincon parking lot on Hwy. 9 (about 3.5 miles south of the Park’s main entrance) at noon. Leader: George Jammal, 335-7748.

Sunday, October 10
HIKE/ TRAIL WORK: MT. MANUEL
Help do some much needed trail repair on the Mt. Manuel trail. We’ll hike to the peak while clipping and sawing as we go. Bring loppers and hedge trimmers, if you have them, and gloves, lunch and water. Meet at Albertson’s at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Steve Legnard, 402-1422.

Sunday, October 10
HIKE: TANBARK LOOP/TIN HOUSE
Hike through dense forest of redwoods, tan-bark oaks, and ferns near Partington Creek. Huge rock formations and small waterfalls. Steep 1900’ elevation gain to spectacular coastal views at Tin House where we’ll lunch. Return down a fire road, for a 6.5 mile loop. Meet at Bagel Bakery at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch, lots of water, sunscreen, sun hat and $ for carpool. Leader: Suzanne Arnold, 626-4042.

Tuesday, October 12
SENIOR SAUNTER: SANTA CRUZ LEVEE
3-4 mile levee hike starting from Gateway Shopping Center on River St. We can park by the levee. We’ll walk along the river to the end of the wharf. A shorter hike may be arranged. Dress for weather. Bring lunch or eat out on the wharf. Meet before 9:30 a.m. at Sears 41st Ave. or at the levee at Gateway at 9:50 a.m. Bring lunch (or not) and $2 carpool. Leader: Margaret Steele, 465-8565.

Wednesday, October 13
HIKE: CARMEL BAY SCENIC RD.
We’ll start hiking beside the Bay City Preschool on the edge of Monastery Beach. Trail goes around the bay to Carmel River Beach and then onto Scenic Drive to the Tor house and tower built from rock in the early 1900s by poet Robinson Jeffers. 6 miles with beautiful scenes of the bay. Bring water and lunch. Meet at Sears 41st Avenue at 9:00 a.m. or in front of Express Deli at the Rio Del Mar turnoff in Aptos at 9:10 a.m., or at the trailhead on Hwy. 1 in Carmel beside the Bay Preschool at 10:00 a.m. Bring water and lunch. Leader: Diane Cornell, 423-5925.

Friday-Sunday, October 15-17
BACKPACK: CHINA CAMP TO LOS PADRES DAM
18-miles from China Camp to Los Padres Dam. Friday we’ll meet at 8:00 a.m. to shuttle to the dam and then to China Camp. We’ll hike 6 miles to Pine Valley the first day. Saturday we’ll hike 9 miles to Sulfur Springs. Sunday, it’s 6 miles to the dam. About 700’ elevation loss/day. Central commissary, breakfast and dinners provided. Cost: $25. Contact leader Henry Leinen, hlein@earthlink.net to sign-up, limit 10 persons.

Desert Outings
Sierra Club California/Nevada Desert Committee Outings
Friday-Sunday, August 27-29
WHITE MOUNTAINS CAR CAMP
Escape from the heat and the crowds. We will stay at Grandview Campground, spend one day visiting Bristlecone Pines at Shulman Grove, spend another day touring out to the Patriarch Grove and (roads and vehicles permitting) visiting the Cottonwood Spring area. Sunday’s plan will depend upon wishes of the group (backroad driving, dayhike, or leisurely return through Owens Valley). Views from these mountains are spectacular. Cameras are a necessity. For info and reservations contact: Leader: Craig Deutsche, deutsche@earthlink.net, 310-477-6670.

All Desert Committee activities, unless stated otherwise, are suitable for anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The average car will be adequate for most trips; however, many of the roads used are dirt and, as with all desert travel, you should come prepared.

Club desert trips are designed to help you see the desert in a way you have not seen it before. We usually have a campfire in the evenings with potluck food and fun. For a complete listing of CNRCC Desert Committee trips, contact Craig Deutsche, 2231 Kelton Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90064, 310-477-6670. Trips may also be received via e-mail from deutsche@earthlink.net.
New city proposed between Salinas and Prunedale

by Julie Engell

The Monterey County Board of Supervisors is slated to make a final decision regarding Rancho San Juan by the end of September. Rancho San Juan is a new city the size of Marina that the county plans to allow on farmland between Salinas and Prunedale just east of Hwy. 101. The Sierra Club and the Rancho San Juan Opposition Coalition, a grassroots activist organization, oppose this proposed 2500-acre development which would:

- Urbanize 1750 acres of farmland,
- More than double the traffic on Highway 101,
- Contain 4000 homes with an average sales price of $495,000,
- Pump an additional 700 acre-feet of water from an over-drafted aquifer,
- Require 5.6 million cubic yards of grading,
- Reserve 3 million sq. ft. for industrial development,
- Convert rare coastal prairie to golf course.

Furthermore, economic analysis which was done for the General Plan Update showed that the infrastructure which was done for the General Plan process would not be sufficient for the kind of urban development the county was allowing in the area. The Board directed county planning staff to work closely with the developer for 671 acres in the plan area. In an attempt to avoid denying the application outright, the County decided to delay a decision until after the County General Plan was updated. HYH Corporation sued and won because no other development application had been similarly treated.

The court mandated that Monterey County process both a Specific Plan for the area and a development proposal from HYH Corp. However, the court explicitly stated that the court’s decision in no way interfered with the discretion of the Board of Supervisors to approve, modify or deny either the Specific Plan or the HYH development proposal.

The Board directed county planning staff to work closely with the developer in creating the Specific Plan, blurring the county staff’s oversight role. When responding to a question during testimony before the Monterey County Planning Commission, Alana Knaster, Assistant Planning Director, stated that Monterey County is the project proponent.

How to help

- Contact your supervisor and ask that they oppose this project: Monterey County Board of Supervisors, P.O. Box 1728, Salinas, CA 93902; phone: 755-5066; fax: 755-5888; email: CTTCB@co.monterey.ca.us; Clerk to the Board: Ann Anderson.
- Call Julie Engell, 633-8709 for more information or to volunteer.

Club members invited to reception for U. S. Senator Barbara Boxer on August 23.

U. S. Senator Barbara Boxer will be appearing at the historic home of Judy and David Beech in Monterey on Monday, Aug. 23. A strong environmentalist, Senator Boxer has been heartily endorsed by the Sierra Club, one of the sponsors of the event. In 1997 Boxer received the Club’s coveted Edgar Wayburn Award for her courage and tenacity in protecting our natural resources.

As a senator, Boxer has actively fought against corporate greed and destruction of habitat. She amended the Safe Water Drinking Act to ensure water was safe for vulnerable children and the elderly. She is an inspiring leader against drilling in the Arctic Refuge and supported renewing the Superfund program to clean up toxic waste.

Closer to home, she introduced the California Wild Heritage Wilderness Act which would protect about 2.5 million acres in 77 areas of the state, as well as the free-flowing portions of 22 rivers. Senator Boxer remains one of our strongest coastal advocates, working to provide permanent protection to California’s Outer Continental Shelf.

This event is a great opportunity to meet her and talk to her about issues affecting our counties.

The reception will be from 5-7:00 p.m. and will cost $100/person, $500 for the private VIP pre-party event. The Committee has added a program that for a $20 donation, someone can win 2 tickets to the VIP event. For more info call Barbara Graves, 462-4303 or Dems@dancin.biz or RSVP to Kat Woodruff, 415-734-9040 or katw@boxer2004.org.

Fall Colors At Discounted Rates

Come to Silver Lake and Carson Pass areas to relax and enjoy the spectacular fall colors of the Sierra. Fish, hike, or wander along the many lakeside and mountain trails to experience the brilliant gold and red colors of fall. After a hike, refresh in the cool water, lounge on our beach, or glide out on the pristine Silver Lake waters, very peaceful. Then join us for a gourmet meal at our restaurant or spend the evening in your comfortable lakeside room or cottage, ending your day star-gazing from your deck or meeting others at the crackling campfire.

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Methyl bromide poisoning devastates farm workers’ health

Bush Administration undermines international treaty that would ban the pesticide

After working on some of the country’s most fertile fields, Jorge Fernández and Guillermo Ruiz of Salinas live barren lives.

For 12 years, both men worked in dozens of fields in California and Arizona with one of the most dangerous pesticides known—methyl bromide. Today, Jorge and Guillermo’s health is devastated. They both complain of blurred vision, head, throat, ear and abdomen aches, in addition to rashes.

The EPA rates methyl bromide among the most powerful class of toxic chemicals. In California alone, 18 people have died and hundreds have been poisoned by it.

Both Jorge and Guillermo have ended up disabled and blame methyl bromide and their former bosses, who did not follow safety rules for its application, for their misfortune.

“I was never informed that this was harmful,” says Jorge, who has been unable to work since September 2003. “Now I know that after cutting the tarps that cover the fields, we should have waited 24 hours before removing them. But they would send us in right away.”

Guillermo, who has also been out of work since September 2003, says, “They would just give us a pair of plastic pants and a paper mask which provided no protection. There were days when I could not speak because within a couple of hours the gas would burn your throat.”

It was the devastating effects of methyl bromide on the ozone layer, which protects us from the sun’s dangerous ultraviolet rays, that led 166 nations to sign the Montreal Protocol in 1987. This pact, one of the most important environmental victories in history, mandated that its signatories completely phase out methyl bromide, except in extraordinary cases, by 2005.

But the Bush administration is once again undermining international cooperation and agreements. Earlier this year the administration requested exemptions from the treaty that would allow the continued use of thousands of pounds of methyl bromide, especially in agricultural fields. In March, the administration was granted these exemptions, at least for this year. So now instead of phasing out this poison, workers like Jorge and Guillermo will continue applying it—even though there are viable alternatives for 95 percent of the uses of methyl bromide.

For the chemical producers and agribusiness this is a windfall. The Gottwald family, the owners of Albermarle, one of the largest manufacturers of methyl bromide, donated $345,000 to Bush and the Republican Party between 2000 and 2002. And agribusiness gave $2.7 million to the Bush campaign in 2000.

According to a Pesticide Action Network study, the average American carries unhealthy levels of pesticides, with Mexican-Americans, like Jorge and Guillermo, showing disproportionately high levels.

“We get to do this job just because we are Mexicans,” Jorge says. “Why doesn’t Mr. Bush come and do it instead?”

El Envenenamiento de bromuro metílico devasta la salud de trabajadores

La Administración Bush socava un tratado internacional que prohibiría el pesticida

Después de trabajar en algunos de los campos más fértiles del país, Jorge Fernández y Guillermo Ruiz viven una existencia estéril. Durante 12 años, los dos recorrieron decenas de plantaciones en California y Arizona trabajando con uno de los pesticidas más peligrosos que se conocen, el bromuro metílico. Hoy, la salud de Jorge y Guillermo está destrozada. Ambos se quejan de vista borrosa, dolores de cabeza, garganta, oído y abdomen, y ardor en la piel.

La Agencia de Protección Medioambiental lo incluye en su categoría de sustancias más tóxicas. Sólo en California, desde 1985 al menos 18 personas han muerto y cientos han sido intoxicadas por él.

Los dos han quedado incapacitados para trabajar y culpan de sus desgracias al bromuro metílico y a los patrones, quienes no siguieron las reglas de seguridad para su aplicación.

“A mi nunca me informaron que esto hacía daño,” dice Jorge, quien lleva incapacitado desde septiembre de 2003. “Ahora sé que después de cortar los plásticos que cubrían los campos, deberíamos haber esperado 24 horas antes de retirarlos. Pero nos metían enseguida.”

“[El patrón] no cumplía con las reglas y no nos daba el equipo apropiado,” recuerda Guillermo, quien también lleva incapacitado desde septiembre de 2003. “Nos dabamos un puro pantalón de plástico y máscaras de papel que no protegían nada. Había días que no podíamos hablar porque en un par de horas te quemaba la garganta.”

Pero fue el devastador efecto del bromuro metílico en la capa de ozono lo que llevó a 166 naciones a firmar en 1987 el Protocolo de Montreal, una de las mayores victorias medioambientales de la historia. El pacto obliga a todos sus signatarios a eliminar por completo el uso del bromuro metílico para 2005, excepto en casos extraordinarios.

Pero la administración Bush de nuevo está socavando los tratados internacionales. A principios de 2004, la Casa Blanca solicitó excepciones para seguir inyectando este pesticida en campos agrícolas. En marzo las consiguió, al menos para 2004; y ahora en lugar de estar a punto de eliminar por completo este veneno, braceros como Jorge y Guillermo seguirán aplicándolo a cosechas, pese a que para el 95% de los usos hay alternativas menos dañinas.

Para los fabricantes químicos y los conglomerados agrícolas esto significa un negocio redondo. La familia Gottwald, dueña de Albermarle, uno de los mayores productores de bromuro metílico, donó a Bush y al Partido Republicano $345,000 entre 2000 y 2002. Y los conglomerados agrícolas dieron $2.7 millones a la Campaña de Bush en 2000.

Según un estudio de la Pesticide Action Network, el estadounidense promedio lleva en su cuerpo niveles no saludables de pesticidas, y los hispanos de origen mexicano, como Jorge y Guillermo, tienen niveles especialmente altos.

“Este trabajo nos toca hacerlo porque somos mexicanos,” dice Jorge. “¿Por qué no viene el Sr. Bush a hacerlo?”

Reprinted with permission from Latino Communities at Risk. To see the full report including references or to view the companion Spanish-language television ad, visit: www.sierraclub.org/comunidades. The printed report may be obtained by calling the Sierra Club office in Santa Cruz, 426-4453 or the Sierra Club Bookstore in Carmel, 624-8032.
Sierra hut work parties need your help

A winter visitor on the second floor of the new outhouse at Peter Grubb Hut, constructed during 2002-03 work parties.

Each fall dozens of volunteers participate in work parties to prepare the Club’s backcountry huts for the next winter season. The big job is cutting and stocking firewood toward manual labor.

Volunteers assemble at the Club’s Clair Tappaan Lodge near Donner Summit, just off I-80 Saturday morning. Your Friday lodging and Saturday breakfast are courtesy of the Club. Tools and food for the weekend are provided.

All you need to bring are gear for a simple overnight backpack (sleeping bag, pack, eating utensils, flashlight, etc.), work clothes, and a healthy attitude toward manual labor.

If this sounds interesting, contact one of the leaders listed below:

- September 11-12: Benson Hut – Finishing incomplete tasks. Jim Gannon, jgannon99@earthlink.net.
- October 16-17: Peter Grubb Hut – Storing firewood; general repairs. Dick Simpson, rsa Simpson@magellan.stanford.edu, 650-494-9272.


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Sierra hut work parties need your help

by Gillian Taylor

When is a preserve not a preserve?

We asked this question publicly many years ago, when residents were being wooed by developers of the sprawling luxury subdivision and golf course known as Rancho San Carlos (RSC) located in the mountains southwest of Carmel Valley. The development was dubbed “The Preserve” by those pushing the project.

The Chapter and many others raised questions about the project’s size and sprawl and its impacts on the downstream watershed and the ecology of the area. Our fears of their hollow “green speak” have come true.

The RSC hype promised that all building would be “subordinate to the landscape,” and placed on “carefully selected sites” with “carefully defined building envelopes, selected to avoid unique natural, cultural and scenic resources to the greatest extent possible.”

The reality? The latest phase of the project, “The Potrero,” follows the pattern of the previous ones: the Potrero project site, has already shown serious signs of draw-down. This outcome was feared by the Chapter and the Carmel River Steelhead Association, among others. While RSC claims it is not due to their project’s pumping, our expert finds no other credible conclusion. And even though it is clear the creek has been significantly impacted since the project construction began, Monterey County’s permit conditions require only meaningless mitigation—if flows drop below zero, RSC has to add water to bring it back up to zero. (Unfortunately, we aren’t kidding.)

Promises of eco-friendliness also fall flat when it comes to protecting habitat for threatened species. In November, 2003, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service advised that building sites, including those in the Potrero area, should not be cleared until the Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) process is completed and the Fish and Wildlife Service issues an incidental take permit.” As the HCP is still not finished, the Chapter recently asked the county whether further clearing had taken place in violation of this advice. We were not given an answer.

We will continue to press the county to deal with the issues, and to provide the information we have requested. To review the comments the Club has submitted to Monterey County on this project, visit www.ventana.sierraclub.org.
Free speech prevails

The California Coastal Records Project and its founders Ken and Gabrielle Adelman have defended their website against efforts by singer Barbra Streisand to shut them down. Streisand had argued that the coastal photo survey represented a dangerous intrusion into her rights of privacy when one of the 12,000+ photos on the website included her Malibu home at Pt. Dume. For details, court documents, the judge’s ruling and even a copy of Streisand’s check for $155,567.04 covering a portion of the Adelmans’ attorney fees, visit www.californiacoastline.org.

Time for a change

For the third year in a row, President Bush has refused to keep America’s commitment to the United Nations Population Fund. “Bush has turned his back on a program that saves the lives of women and children, prevents abortion, improves the lives of families and ultimately protects the environment,” said Larry Fahn, Sierra Club President.

Green reading

The Valley Women’s Club has donated children’s books to three libraries in the San Lorenzo Valley. The books, presented as part of the Watershed Festival show that all wildlife (and humans, too) depend on a healthy watershed. Donated were Salmon Stream by Carol Reed-Jones, Come Back, Salmon by Molly Cone, Nobody Particular—One Woman’s Fight to Save the Bays by Molly Band, Water Dance by Thomas Locker, A Cool Drink of Water by Barbara Kerley, Follow the Water from Brook to Ocean by Arthur Dorros, Wetlands by Pamela Hickman, Earthyways by Carol Petruch, and Tell Me Tree, All about Trees for Kids by Gail Gibbons.

Senior Saunter founder Penny Wicks will be fondly remembered

Penny Wicks, 87, passed away after a short illness on June 27 in Colorado. She was a long-time lover of the outdoors and especially the Sierra Club. Back in 1985, Penny founded the Senior Saunter group and led leisurely walks of three to five miles every Tuesday for over 10 years. As a nurse, Penny was not afraid to take people who had physical problems hiking. Penny knew all the flower names and wanted to learn more.

Dorothy Whitmore remembers the full-moon campout in 1988 at Fremont Peak: “We all trooped up to the top and sat there waiting for the full moon to rise, then gloried in the beauty of the mountains and Monterey Peninsula bathed in moonlight.” Whitmore also recalls that Penny loved going to dinner at Rocky Point below Carmel and watching the waves crash on the rocks.

Early in her life before the Second World War, Penny was a stewardess on DC-3s. She returned to Colorado in 1997. Penny leaves a daughter and stepson in California and a son in Colorado.

Per Penny’s request, her ashes will be scattered at Bluelake in the Indian Peaks Wilderness, a favorite hiking area in Colorado where her husband’s ashes were also scattered. Penny had requested that contributions be made to the local Club in her memory. Contributions may be mailed to P.O. Box 604, Santa Cruz, 95061-0604.

Big Sur Land Trust secures option for Marks Ranch

Responding to a grassroots effort to prevent development of Marks Ranch, the Big Sur Land Trust has secured an option to purchase the 849-acre property from St. John’s College in Annapolis, MD, and Santa Fe, NM, and California State University. The Land Trust will have three years to raise over $5 million to acquire the property for conservation purposes.

With rolling hills and oak woodlands, Marks Ranch is an important link in one of the last open space corridors between the former Fort Ord and the Santa Lucia Mountains. The Ranch was gifted to St. John’s College in 1973 by Herman Marks with the intent that it would be used for a small campus, with all other areas remaining as open space. The property is adjacent to Toro Park.

The Big Sur Land Trust will be meeting with members of the Salinas and Monterey communities to seek input and participation in establishing a vision for the property.

Preservation of this important natural area is a great victory for locals who first organized Citizens to Save Marks Ranch.
Members of the River Park Neighborhood Group clean up the Pajaro River on Earth Day this spring. The Sierra Club, Santa Cruz Group, was a co-sponsor of the event along with the City of Watsonville Neighborhood Services.

The Club plans to sponsor the event again next year. If you are interested in volunteering, call Lois Robin, 464-1184.